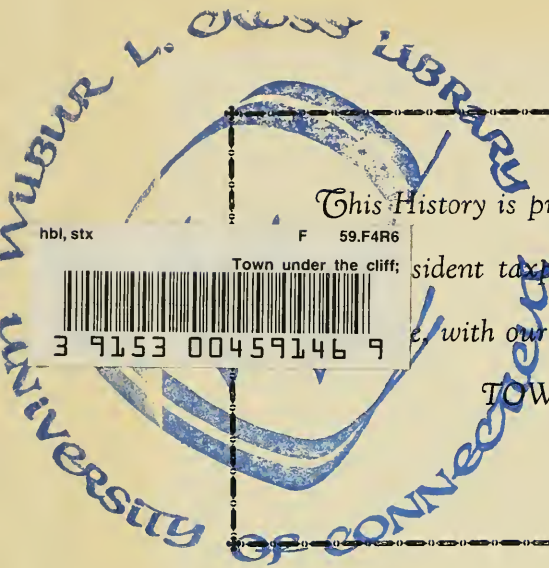
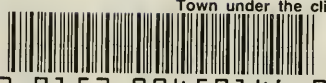


A
HISTORY OF FAIRLEE, VERMONT

PHILIP G. ROBINSON



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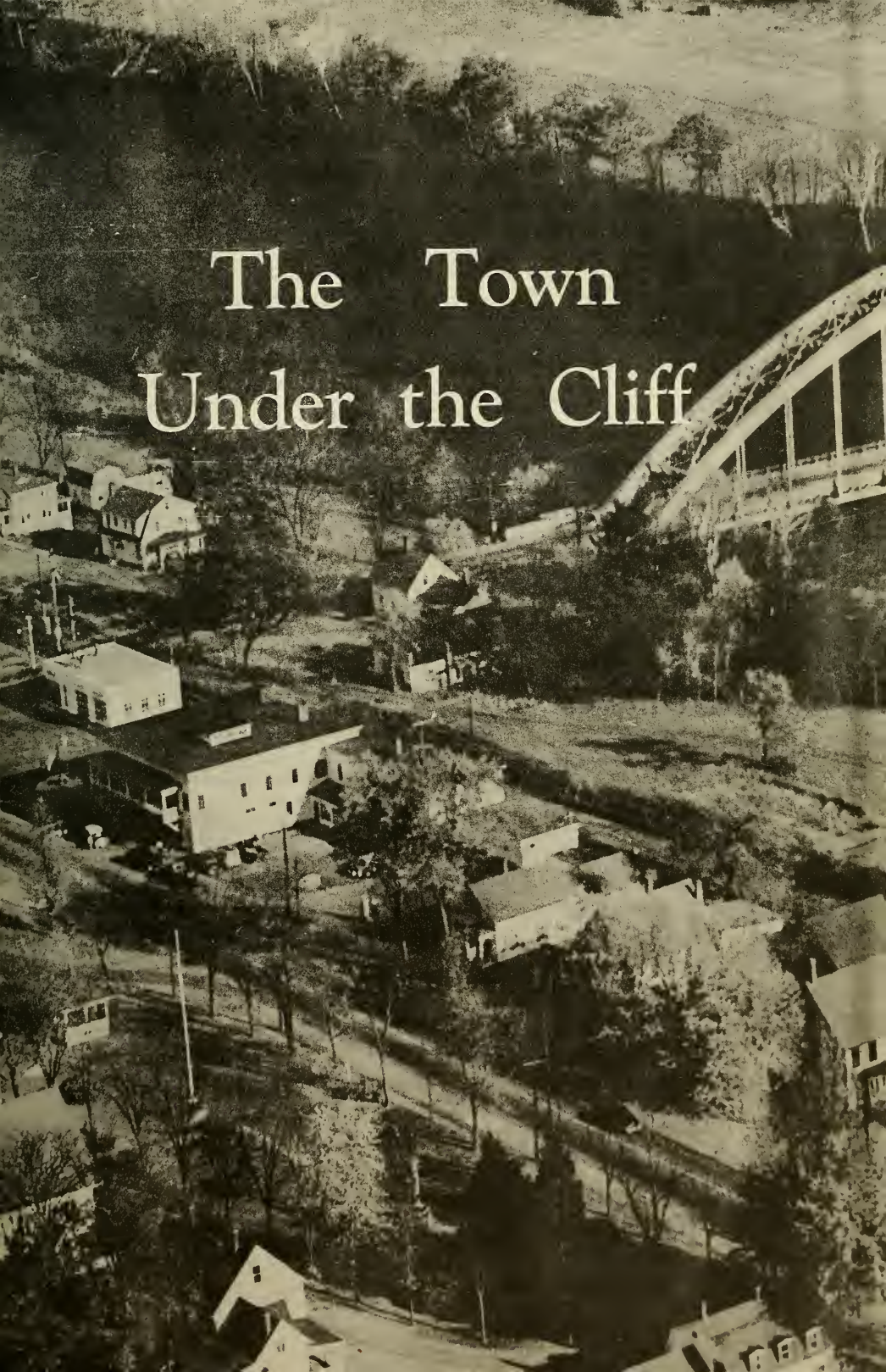
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The Town Under the Cliff

A HISTORY OF FAIRLEE, VERMONT

Compiled and Edited

by

PHILIP G. ROBINSON

Published by

PHILIP G. ROBINSON
in cooperation with
THE TOWN OF FAIRLEE, VERMONT

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Preface

THE HISTORY of Fairlee has been written. It is simply the task of the writer to bring together in one place the thoughts of John Baldwin and his fellowmen and women as they settled in the wilderness which is now Fairlee Main Street; the financial problems faced by Israel Morey and Samuel Smith, as they planned the first roads and mills; the hopes and aspirations of this little colony as they raised their first Meeting House, or saw their sons and fathers go forth to war;—all to be followed in the years to come by the same hopes, fears, and accomplishments of their successors for almost two centuries. As we look at the beautifully neat New England park with its bandstand and the imposing Federated Church, it is hard to realize it is the result of diverse opinions and difficulties in building, or that one pastor had to sue the Town for his small stipend. The endless row, it seems, of modern gasoline stations blots out entirely the memory of sheep and horses grazing in the street, or the day the first street lamp was to be the subject of a special newspaper article. Such was Fairlee.

Such are the memories, the deeds, and hopes spread over the pages of Vermont history by our forefathers. Their past has been inscribed on the early records of the town, recorded by writers whose works have long since been permitted to collect the dust of disinterest, or only as stories passed on from father to son, or mother to grandchild, to be forever lost to man as their present guardians go to join their predecessors.

It is with the earnest hope that those who might follow will want to recall the past that the writer has undertaken to gather the material available. The sources have been varied and, in the case of early records, quite often difficult to decipher where the yellow hand of time has stained the written word. It has, however, been a great source of satisfaction to receive the help of so many, whether it be with an anecdote, a picture, a possible new source for some elusive fact, or just an encouraging word; and if other lovers of Fairlee and her beautiful Lake Morey can learn in the future more easily of her past, the writer will be more than repaid for the time and effort so humbly spent.

Some apology may be asked for the information written which pertains to the more general history of Vermont as a state. It has been felt necessary, however, to include this writing because only understanding the more general conditions under which the early settlers of Fairlee lived, is it possible to fully understand things of importance in the local light. This general information is fairly well designated so that those who wish to confine their reading to the strictly local matters of interest should be able to do so with little difficulty.

The reader's indulgence is also requested for any errors in fact that might appear. It certainly has not been intentional but might occur where different sources of information have not strictly agreed and the writer has had to make a choice of the facts presented. It is also regrettable that the present costs of publication have made it necessary to eliminate certain material which might have a particular appeal to the individual reader but, unfortunately, such practical limits must be faced.

It is impossible to list all the people to whom the writer owes his thanks. All in Fairlee have been most kind and they know each has my sincere appreciation. My thanks also go to Mrs. John Hodgsdon, of Larchmont, New York and Orford, Mr. Fred Bradford of Melrose, Massachusetts and to Mr. Haydn S. Pearson and his publishers for permission to quote from his "The Country Store" and "Country Flavor."

None of this would have been possible without the continued patience and help of my wife, to whom I gratefully dedicate this book.

PHILIP G. ROBINSON

LAKE MOREY, VERMONT
JUNE 15, 1957

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To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come,

CBE

containing nothing more than six miles square, and no more, out of which an allowance is to be made for high-ways and unimprovable lands by rocks, ponds, mountains and rivers, one thousand and forty acres free, according to a plan and survey thereof, made by our said Governor's order, and returned into the Secretary's office, and heretofore annexed, butted and bounded as follows, viz.—Beginning at a Tree standing on the Bank of Connecticut River opposite the Village of Enfield, where it meets the Lake, known by the name of North Pond, thence North east one degree West two miles by Shetford, afterwards to the North Westerly one third of three miles North thirty three degrees East, five miles and one half mile thence South sixteen degrees East seven miles to a Tree marked with the figure 89, &c. standing on the Bank of Connecticut River, after thence down the side of your great runneth to the bounds first above mentioned And that the same be, and hereby is incorporated into a Township by the name of Saville. — And the inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the said Township

18. That every Grantee, his heirs or assigns shall plant and cultivate five acre of land within the term of five years for every fifty acres contained in his or their share or proportion of land in said Township, and continue to improve and fettle the same by additional cultivations, on penalty of the forfeiture of his grant or share in the said Township, and of its reverting to us, our heirs and successors, to be by us, or them regranted to such of our faithfuls as shall effectually fettle and cultivate the same.

19. That all white and other pine trees within the said Township, fit for masting our Royal Navy, be carefully preserved for that use, and none to be cut or felled without our special licence for so doing first had and obtained, upon the penalty of the forfeiture of the right of such Grantee, his heirs and assigns, to us, our heirs and successors, as well as being subject to the penalty of any act or acts of parliament that now are, or hereafter shall be made.

20. That we do give notice of the land to be made up and reserved for the service of His Majesty's Navy, to the several owners of land adjacent thereto, who shall admit or shall be reserved and

4th. Yielding and paying thereon to us, our heirs and successors for the space of two years, to be computed from the date hereof, the rent of one ear of Indian Corn only, on that one sixth fifth part of December annually, if the land be improved, and if not improved, on the first day of December 1766.

day of December annually, if lawfully demanded, the first payment to be made on the twenty fifth day of December 1762
5th. Every proprietor, settler or inhabitant, shall yield and pay unto us, our heirs and successors yearly, and every year forever, from and after the expiration of ten years from the
above said twenty fifth day of December namely, on the 1st day of December which will be in the year of our Lord 1772
one filling proclamation money for every hundred acres he so owns, settles or possesses, and so in proportion for a greater
or lesser tract of the said land; which money shall be paid by the respective persons above said, their heirs, or assigns, in our Council Chamber in Portsmouth, or to such Officer or Officers
as shall be appointed to receive the same; and this to be in lieu of all other rents and services whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof, We have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness *Berning Northwest* Esq. our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province the *Ninth* day of *September* in the year of our LORD CHRIST, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and *sixty one* and in the *6th* year of our Reign.

B. Wentworth

With advice of Council,
Theodore A. Robinson Secy

Province of New Hampshire. Sept 9th 1768.
Quoted according to the original. Character
was the Province Seal.
H. M. Moore. Newmarket N. H.

Founding

FAIRLEE, a name loved by thousands over a period of almost two centuries, and the home town of hundreds of families during their life span, yet, who actually knows from what or from whom the name was derived? There are stories, yes; but there seems to be lacking actual historical data to substantiate any one claim. One story which has been passed along for several generations seems to have value and it would be a fond realization to so declare it, as it links the Fairlee of today with the earliest days of its actual settlement. The second most prevalent story seems to be more the figment of a writer's mind. They both, however, fail to meet the cold hard test of a research student basing his belief on the surrounding facts of historical nomenclature in this vicinity. Let us examine each and the reader can choose whichever path seems to lead him to a satisfactory answer.

The late Charles Munn was the great nephew of Sally Wild, the first white woman to be born in Fairlee. Her father, Daniel Wild, in turn, had written years ago that his father was one of the earliest settlers in what was to be West Fairlee, having come there to work for Nathaniel Niles, of whom we will read much more later in the development of Fairlee. It was Daniel Wild's claim that several of Niles' party had arrived to work in this unnamed area and an argument started as to the manner in which they were deciding how to arrive at a name. One of them claimed he had been treated "fairly" in the matter and as a compromise that was decided as the name of this new town to be.

Theory number two comes through the annals of historical fiction and goes back to the days of Rogers' Rangers. They were returning from their northward trek in the French and Indian War to the fort at Charlestown, New Hampshire and their respective homes. Some of them camped across the river and noticed the "fair lea" between the hills so that they decided that would be a desirable place for a town to be called "Fairlea".

These two beliefs do not seem to meet the conditions that generally existed, however, as we know many towns along the river were included

in the New Hampshire Grants by Governor Benning Wentworth. It was his usual practice to name these towns in honor of his friends or relatives, people important in the affairs of England at the time, or after English towns. We do know the names of Robert, James, and James Fairlee, Jr. appear among the grantees of Bristol, New Hampshire. There is known to the writer no other record of this family in New England and it is only conjecture that this might have been the source for the town name we know. Another possibility is that Fairlee was named after a town in England, as the Wentworth family home was in Strafford, Yorkshire County, and it is highly possible there could have been a Fairlee town or shire to which the Governor wished to pay homage.

It has been a keen disappointment that the true source of the name could not be verified, although all known avenues of information have been carefully searched, but it is hoped some day will bring forth the answer to this most interesting quest.

Although September 9, 1761, was the date of the official grant to the sixty-four shareholders and Proprietors of Fairlee, it was simply an interim date between previous years of internal strife between New Hampshire and New York, and then the refusal of our United States government to admit the early settlers of the Green Mountain State to the council of thirteen. With the end of the French and Indian Wars and subsequent peace in 1763, Great Britain came into control of the land of the green mountains. The royal representative was Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire who, being a shrewd business man, soon saw the selfish advantage to himself of the many requests for "Proprietorships" in his vast uninhabited territory. Conscious of the profits possible, he claimed the land west of the Connecticut River which had been included in 1664 to the New York colony, and between 1760-1764 Wentworth issued over 130 grants, Fairlee included. The original grant follows:

Province of New Hampshire: Fairlee

George III, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland: Defenders of the Faith, etc.

To all persons to whom these present shall come—Greetings:

Know ye that we of our Special Grace, certain knowledge and notion for the due encouragement of settling a new plantation within our said Province, by and with the advice of "our truly and well beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq., Our Governor and Commander in Chief" of Our said Province of New Hampshire, in New England; and of Our Council of the said Province, have upon the condition and reservation herein after made, given and granted, and. by these Presents, for Us, Our heirs and Successors, do give and grant in equal shares, unto "Our Loving Subjects", inhabitants of "Our Said Province" of New Hampshire, and Our other Governments," and to their heirs and assigns, forever, whose names are entered on this Grant; to be divided to and amongst them, into seventy equal shares; all that tract or parcel

of land so scituate, lying and being within our said Province of New Hampshire—containing by admeasurement about twenty four thousand acres; which tract is to contain something more than six miles square, and no more, out of which an allowance is to be made for highways and unimprovable land by Rocks, Ponds, Mountains and Rivers.

One thousand and forty acres free, according to a plan and survey thereof made by "Our Said Governors," Order and returned into the Secretaries Office and herewith annexed; butted and bounded as follows: viz.

Beginning at a tree standing on the bank of the Connecticut River, marked with the figures 7 and 8, which is the northeasterly corner bound of Thetford; thence North 61 degrees, West six miles, by Thetford aforesaid, to the northwesterly corner bound of Thetford; then North 33 degrees, East $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles, thence South 61 degrees, East seven miles to a tree marked with the figures 8 and 9 standing on the bank of the Connecticut River aforesaid; thence down said River, as it runs to the bound first above mentioned.

And that the same be and hereby is incorporated into a Township by the name of Fairlee; and the inhabitants that do, or shall hereafter inhabit the Township, are hereby declared to be Enfranchised with, and Entitled to, all and every the Privileges and Immunities that other Towns within our Province by law exercise and enjoy. And further that the said Town as soon as there shall be Fifty Families resided and settled thereon, shall have the liberty of holding two fairs, one of which shall be held on the and the other on the annually, which Fairs are not to continue longer than the respective following the said.....

And that as soon as the said Town shall consist of fifty families a market may be opened and kept one or more days in each week as it be thought most advantageous to the Inhabitants; also that the first meeting for the choice of Town Officers, agreeable to the laws of our said Province shall be held on the second Tuesday of October next which said meeting shall be notified by Mr. Wildar Willard who is hereby appointed the moderator of the said first meeting which he is to notify and govern agreeable to the laws and customs of our said Province. And that the Annual Meeting forever hereafter for the choice of such Officer for the said Town shall be on the second Tuesday of March annually. To have and to hold the said Tract of land as above expressed together with all the privileges and appurtenances to them and their respective heirs and assigns forever—upon the following conditions: viz.—

First that every grantee, his heirs, or assigns, shall plant and cultivate five acres of land within the term of Five Years for every fifty acres contained in his or their share or proportion of land in said Township and continue to improve and settle the same by additional cultivations on penalty of the forfeiture of his grant or share in the said

Township and of its reverting to Us, Our Heirs and Successors to be by Us or them regranted to our Subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same.

Second That all white and other pine trees within the said Township fit for masting our Royal Navy be carefully preserved for that use and none be cut or felled without our special license for so doing, first had and obtained upon the penalty of this forfeit of the right of such grantee, his Heirs and Assigns to Us, Our Heirs and Successors as well as being subject to penalty of any Act or Acts of Parliament that now are or hereafter shall be enacted.

Third That before any division of the land be made to and among the grantees, a tract of land as near the center of the said Township as the land will admit of, shall be reserved and marked out for Town lots, one of which shall be allotted to each grantee of the contents of one acre.

Fourth Yielding and paying therefor to Us, Our Heirs and Successors for the space of Ten Years to be computed from the date hereof the rent on one ear of Indian corn only on the twenty-first day of December annually if lawfully demanded the first payment to be made on 25th day of December 1762.

Fifth Every Prospector, Settler, or Inhabitant shall yield pay unto Us, Our Heirs and Successors yearly and every year forever from and after the expiration of ten years from the above said twenty fifth day of December which will be in the year of our Lord 1772 one shilling proclamation money for every hundred acres he so owns, settles or possesses and so in proportion for a greater or lesser tract of the said land which money shall be paid by the respective persons above-said, the heirs or assigns in our Council Chamber in Portsmouth or to such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed to receive the same and this to be in lieu of all other rents and services whatsoever.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed, witness Benning Wentworth, Esq. Our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province the ninth day of September in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and sixty one and in the first year of our reign. (sign) Benning Wentworth Governor. By his Excellency's command with advice of Council. (sign) Theodore Atkinson, Sec.

The completed list of original grantees, sixty four in number for a total of seventy shares was recorded as follows:

Province of New Hampshire, September ninth, 1761

Recorded according to the original charter under the Province Seal by Theodore Atkinson, Sec'y. Examined by George Stringling.

Grantees of Fairlee:

Josiah Chauncey	Theodore Atkinson, Esq.
Joseph Hubbard	Mark Wentworth, Esq.
Wildar Willard	Justin Ball
Daniel Jones	Peter Marshall
Oliver Warner	John Stringling
Hezekiah Hubbard	Caleb Pomroy
John Cook	Joseph Wright
Samuel Belknap	Nathaniel Bartlett
Samuel Heirs	Moses Harvey
Fellows Billings	Ebenezer Moody
John Eastman	Ebenezer Dickinson, Jr.
David Warner	Robert Emmons
John Blain	Isaac Ward
Nathan Goodman	Abner Collay
William Barton	Israel Hubbard
Phineas Liman	Richard Chauncey
Thomas Elwell	Joseph Church
David Parsons	Martin Smith
Isaac Goodail	Israel Chauncey
Alexander Smith	Benning Wentworth
Ebenezer Dickinson	Jonathan Hubbard
David Blodgett	Thomas Frink
Samuel Hunt	Jonathan Hunt
Eleazer Mattoon	Arad Hunt
Ed. Mattoon, Sr.	Ebenezer Stoughton
Solomon Boltwood, Jr.	Solomon Ellsworth
Simeon Clark	Samuel Stevens
Moses Cook	Samuel Wentworth
Joseph Dickinson	Esquire Barton
Gideon Dickinson	Major Jonathan Greely
Robert Dickinson	Oliver Willard
Noadiah Lewis	

His Excellency Benning Wentworth, Esq. a tract of land to contain five hundred acres so marked in the plan B. W. which is to be accounted two of the within shares—

One whole right for the Incorporated Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts.

One share for a Glebe for the Church of England by law established.

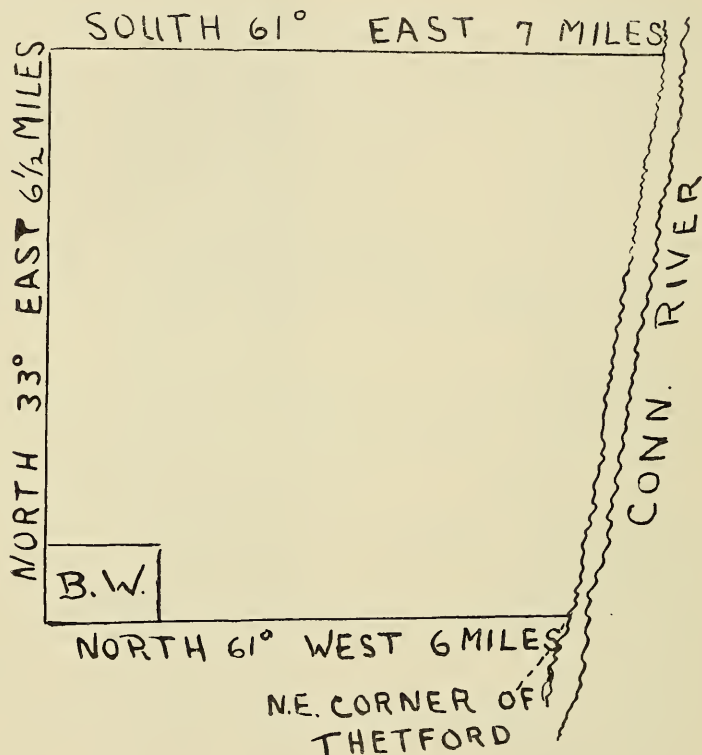
One share for the first settled Minister of the Gospel in said Town.

And one share for the benefit of a School in said Town.

Province of New Hampshire
September ninth 1761. Recorded from the back of the original Charter for Fairlee, under Province Seal.

Attested by Theodore Atkinson
Sec'y (sign)

The plan referred to above appears on the reverse of a Charter page and is shown as follows:



Thus, by this official decree, the right to establish a new town on the west side of the river was sealed. This was but the beginning, however, as there was yet to be a division of land arranged and a basic form of local government established. The first part was begun in May of 1774 under the following warning:

"Province of New Hampshire Grafton County Orford May 21st 1774

This is to certify and warn the Proprietors of Fairlee in the County of Gloucester and province of New York to meet at the Dwelling House of Israel Morey Esq. in Orford aforesaid on Monday the 20th day of June next—

First - To choose a Moderator

Second - To choose a Proprietor Clerk, Committee Collector and all necessary Proprietor Officers.

Third - To see what the Proprietors will do about allotting out

the Town and making necessary roads.

Fourth - To see what sum of money will be necessary to be raised in order to defray the charges of allotting the Town and making necessary roads

Fifth - to see what method the Proprietors will propose to call Proprietor meetings in the future

Sixth - the foregoing notification is agreed to by us the Subscriber Owners of Fifty two rights or Proprietors shares of land in said Fairlee
(signed) Israel Morey

Ichabod Ormsbee
William Simpson
Ebenezar Baldwin"
Benjamin Baldwin Jr.
Jonathan Child

At this meeting William Simpson, of whom we will hear more in respect to the early transportation problems of Fairlee, was appointed moderator. A committee of Israel Morey and Jonathan Child was chosen to work with the surveyors Moses Caleb Willard and John Payne to allot the Town into equal divisions between the Proprietors "as may appear most just and equitable" and that "they cause a plan of said survey to be returned on the first day of August next to which this meeting stands adjourned."

And so the Town of Fairlee was born!

ORIGINAL GRANTEES AND CORRESPONDING LOTS

LOT NO.	GRANTEE	LOT NO.	GRANTEE
1.....	Theodore Atkinson	22.....	Oliver Warner
2.....	Ebenezar Stoughton	23.....	Samuel Heirs
3.....	Thomas Elwell	24.....	William Barton
4.....	David Blodgett	25.....	Peter Marshall
5.....	Glebe	26.....	Benning Wentworth
6.....	Minister	27.....	Oliver Willard
7.....	School	28.....	Jonathan Hunt
8.....	Wildar Willard	29.....	Oliver Warner
9.....	John Cook	30.....	Israel Hubbard
10.....	John Eastman	31.....	Fellows Billings
11.....	Samuel Belknap	32.....	Ebenezar Moody
12.....	Eleazar Mattoon	33.....	Hezekiah Hubbard
13.....	Robert Emmons	34.....	Thomas Frink
14.....	Jonathan Hubbard	35.....	Nathan Goodman
15.....	John Blain	36.....	Joseph Wright
16.....	Ebenezar Dickinson	37.....	Isaac Ward
17.....	Samuel Wentworth	38.....	Martin Smith
18.....	Caleb Pomroy	39.....	Josiah Chauncy
19.....	Incorporated Society	40.....	Joseph Dickinson
20.....	John Stringling	41.....	Mark Wentworth
21.....	Simeon Clark	42.....	Isaac Goodail

LOT NO.	GRANTEE	LOT NO.	GRANTEE
43.....	Abner Collay	54.....	Arad Hunt
44.....	Phineas Liman	55.....	Solomon Ellsworth
45.....	Richard Chauncey	56.....	Joseph Church
46.....	Justin Ball	57.....	Major Jonathan Greely
47.....	Moses Cook	58.....	Moses Harvey
48.....	Nathaniel Bartlett	59.....	Daniel Jones
49.....	Robert Dickinson	60.....	Samuel Boltwood Jr.
50.....	Samuel Hunt	61.....	Alexander Smith
51.....	David Warner	62.....	Samuel Stevens
52.....	Gideon Dickinson	63.....	Noadiah Lewis
53.....	Israel Chauncey	64.....	David Parsons

It is to be noted in studying the character of the Crown's legal agent, that in each case he reserved for himself 500 acres in each township, so situated that in four adjoining towns these plots interlocked for a total of 2000 acres. Still believing himself above reproach, he assigned a share to the Church of England, from which the original settlers had escaped. An interesting side light to this fact is that certain property owners on Lake Morey today receive an annual tax bill from the representative of the Church of England.

Nor did Wentworth and his brother-in-law, Secretary Theodore Atkinson sell to people sincerely interested in the cultivation and growth of the towns themselves. His guiding light and measure of proper qualification was money—those who paid the fattest fee received the grant.

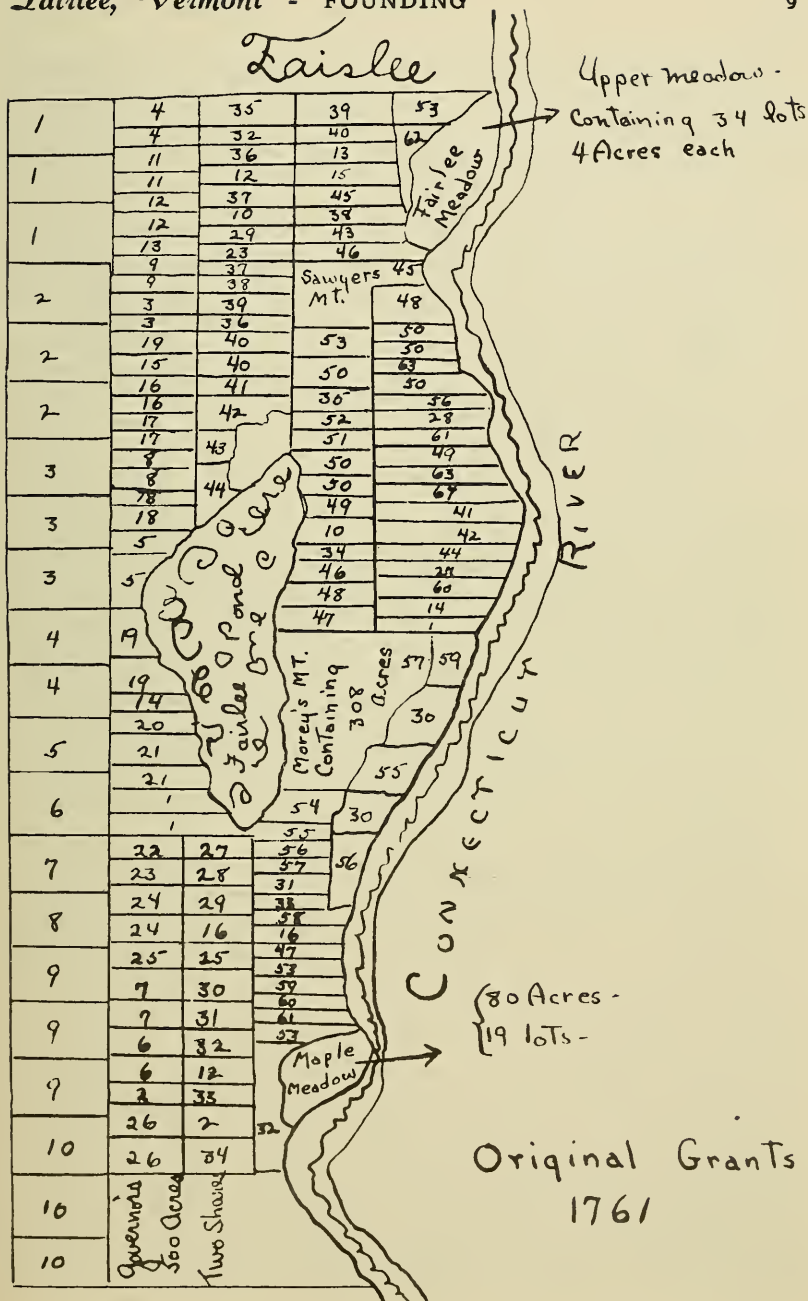
The early records of Fairlee show clearly how soon the original grantees had sold out their rights to men of honest intent and sincerity of purpose—Israel Morey, Samuel Smith, Nathaniel Niles, and others.

But the governor of New York, George Clinton, had also been exerting pressure—not on the land speculators—but on King George III with the result that he decreed in 1764 the so-called "New Hampshire Grants" were to be a part of New York. Had the eager, land-hungry speculators paid high fees to Wentworth for land on which their title was no good? Were the titles held by New York landowners in this region worthless? The first stage was won by New Hampshire. Canny Benning Wentworth had thousands of acres to protect, you will recall, and he enlisted a real settler—with whom the King was sympathetic—to plead his case in England and the King decreed the New Hampshire titles were valid.

In 1767 Benning Wentworth was replaced by his uncle, John Wentworth. He was of a different cut of cloth—honest, hard-working, and well-liked by his neighbors in the Connecticut Valley. As His Majesty's representative he was also "Surveyor General of the King's Woods." Let us remember that "all white and other pine fit for masting our Royal Navy" was to be carefully protected under penalty of losing

Fairlee, Vermont - FOUNDING

9



the owner's right to his land. One William Dean was accused of using his pine illegally and Wentworth brought suit against him in the New York Admiralty Court. Would this be the test of legality of the New Hampshire titles? Although Dean was found guilty, the court did not rule the legality of the title.

During this time Wentworth was also building up ammunition against New York in another way. When, in 1764, King George gave this questioned land to New York, she established two counties; Gloucester, to the north, included Fairlee and Cumberland to the south. This county control of local affairs did not represent to Wentworth the democratic way of life he felt his neighbors wanted and suggested they write and supersede this plan with a local town meeting system. The strength and rightness of this plan is realized today—almost a century later—on the first Tuesday in March in every Vermont town and hamlet.

The next step in this long legal fight entered its third stage at the instigation of New York. Two of her leading lawyers wondered if they could not prove their titles to lands held by certain settlers under the New Hampshire grant. This was settled in favor of New York but at this point the cause of New Hampshire was joined by a swash-buckling, rough, sturdy Ethan Allen. He also knew the sympathy of the King was with the actual workers of the land and not just the money-eager speculators. Spirits were high, tempers short and the history books tell us of the local clashes resulting in the formation of Ethan Allen's "Green Mountain Boys." Violence increased and we all recall the series of skirmishes from 1773 on. These were finally ended by a greater conflict when our Revolutionary War against Great Britain was declared in 1775; and Ethan Allen started off to Fort Ticonderoga and battle with Benedict Arnold.

But it was not to be all war. With a greater cause, perhaps, to draw their attention, the people of the valley turned their thoughts from New York and questionable titles to the bigger question of complete independence from the sovereign King. And yet, although this political action seemed to be only in the western part of the state, in the valley regions a new leader, Jacob Bayley of Newbury, had taken the helm and he was in favor of siding with New Hampshire as against becoming a separate state. Destiny was against him, however, as New York powers created a new state of New York and its constitution was too like the old reign of royal power to suit the rugged pioneer thinkers of the Connecticut River Valley, Windsor, June 4, 1777, therefore, resounded to the ring of the name "Vermont", a free state running from the Connecticut River to Lake Champlain. It was yet to be too early, however, as the tides of war had turned and set aside the determination of these new "Vermonters" for a month. On July 2, 1777, again in Windsor, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Young, a state constitution was born—permitting no slavery (the first state to do

this), freedom of religion, the town meeting form of local government, and suffrage rights to all men.

Peace had come to Vermont? Oh no, not yet. There were still to be over ten years of political strife—questions of the border New Hampshire towns, claims for land by New York, and even Canada as part of a “greater Vermont.”

Mention has been made of some desire by the river towns of New Hampshire to join the new state of Vermont and in this episode of history Fairlee was to play a more direct part; although with the New York controversy affecting the western towns of Vermont, they seemed to play the lead on the political stage. In 1621 all the land of New England within sixty miles of the sea had been given to one John Mason and later that part from the “Mason Grant” to the Connecticut River was granted to the Governor of New Hampshire. When the English rule was disclaimed in 1775, several towns in the New Hampshire area believed themselves free to join any other state they wished to or make a new division of their own. Consequently, several towns, including Orford, Piermont, and Lyme, petitioned the Vermont Legislature to join that state. It was referred to the representatives of the people and on June 11, 1778 it was voted 37 to 12 to annex the New Hampshire towns. It is unfortunate that the individual votes have not been preserved in the public records, but it is safe to assume that both Israel Morey of Orford and Ichabod Ormsbee of Fairlee cast their vote in the affirmative. There were, naturally, objections by the government of New Hampshire. By this time the question had come to the attention of the Congress and Governor Chittenden of Vermont again raised the question for a vote. On October 21, 1778, for some unknown reason, neither Fairlee nor Orford voted on the question to maintain the Vermont counties as they had been prior to the vote of June, but they did vote for making the New Hampshire towns a distinct county. The vote was lost 28 to 33. In this case both Morey and Ormsbee felt any other ruling would be a breach of faith given a few months earlier. A temporary result of this action was the withdrawal by the minority voters of their right to serve in any state office or the Legislature.

The question was to die, however, as there were too many pressures of selfish and political nature from New York on the Congress, resulting in a condition of turmoil within the state. The Legislature tried to settle the debate finally in February 1779 by voting to dissolve the union and return the sixteen towns to New Hampshire. Finality was not to be and the political tug of war between New York and New Hampshire, with Vermont in the middle, continued. In April 1781 a further annexation was approved and this time Fairlee again voted in the affirmative, Orford not voting. Now another problem was to be posed; it was not enough that some New Hampshire towns wanted to join Vermont, but some of the New York towns bordering on the state also wanted to be included. The Vermont legislative body approved 53 to 24, although

this time the valley towns did not feel the New Yorker's quest justified and with Samuel Smith of Fairlee joined the minority.

Let us remember during this time, Vermont had been an independent republic with her own money and postal system, she had not been drained too heavily of manpower in the Revolutionary War, and her finances were in good shape. However, her heart was in the thirteen sister states and in 1781 she made application of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia for admission to the United States.

This epoch-making step for the Vermonters was given, without editorial comment, in the following dry, blunt fashion by the the "Connecticut Courant and Weekly Intelligence" of Monday, Feb. 28, 1791, published in Hartford reporting the session of the House of Representatives at Philadelphia.

"Saturday, February 12. A message that the Senate has passed a bill providing for the admission of Vermont into the federal union on the 4th of March next.

"Monday, February 14. The Vermont bill received from the Senate on Saturday was taken into consideration and afterwards reported to the house without any alteration. The bill was then read the third time and passed."

The March 7th issue of the "Courant" reported—"Friday, February 18. A message from the Senate by Mr. Secretary Otis informed the house that the bill for the admission of Vermont into the Union has received the approbation and signature of the President of the United States."

Thirty years of political, civil and financial strife, thirty years of rugged independence and show of will, thirty years of honest struggle had passed, years which were to make the state of which the late President Calvin Coolidge said, "I love Vermont because of her hills and valleys; her scenery and invigorating climate, but most of all, because of her indomitable people. They are a race of pioneers who have almost beggared themselves to serve others. If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of this brave little state of Vermont."

Early Life

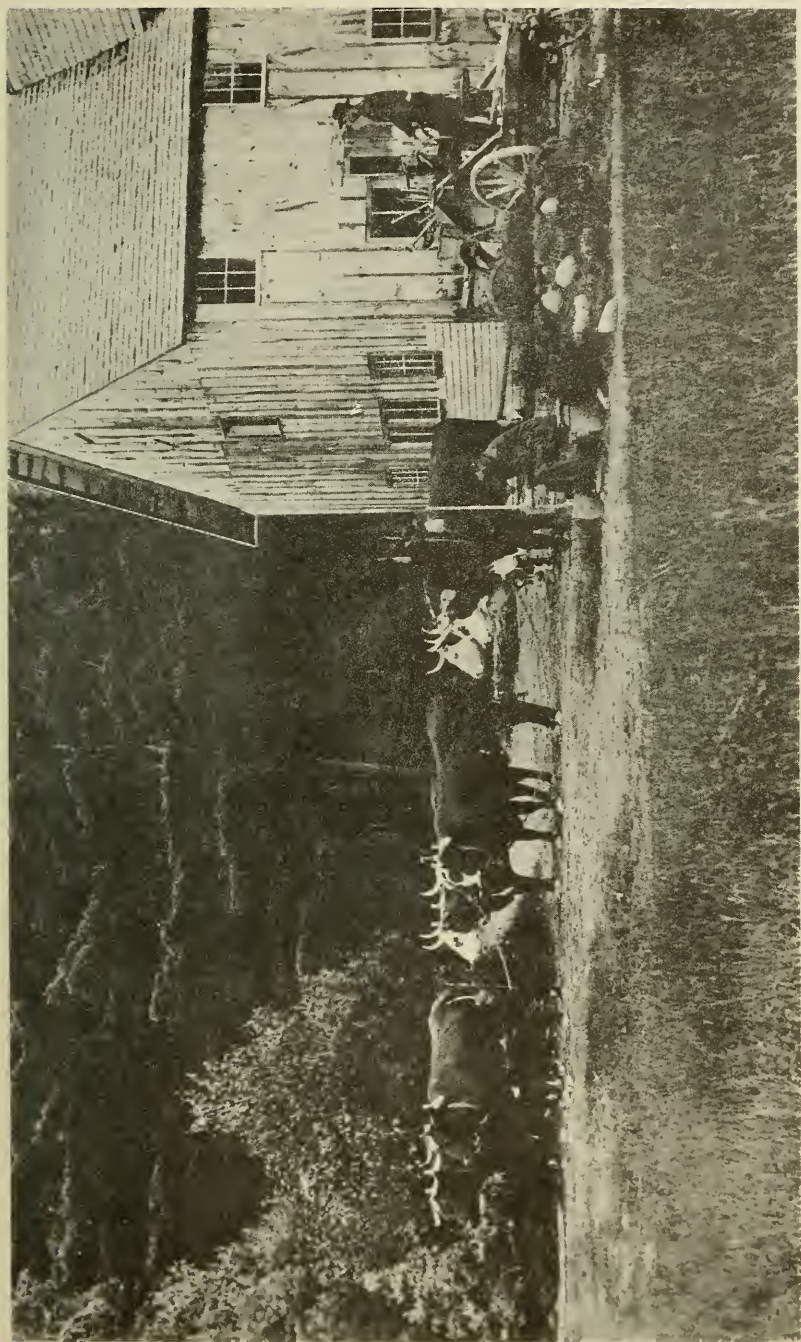
PROBABLY one of the first questions asked by any one interested in the early history of a town is why did people come here originally, who were they and where were they from? How did they live? What were their homes like and their daily problems of living? Fortunately, the records of early Fairlee are available and these along with our general knowledge of the settlement of this country are able to make many of the answers clear.

As was true of many of the new towns settled along the Connecticut River valley, most of the early inhabitants came from small towns in Connecticut, Ashford, Woodstock, Bolton, and Hebron. As a result of the French and Indian wars, several men from the lower river valley had scouted the unknown regions to the north. They brought back word of rich farm lands available, plenty of wild game, and the miles of virgin pine forests. Due to hardships in raising stock and acreage in their home towns, a natural desire to own some of this promised land to the north, or, as in some cases, because of a desire for full religious freedom, many hardy souls decided to pack their few belongings and start on their migrations. By 1765 we know there were three families in Lebanon, one in Hanover, and three in Lyme, all on the New Hampshire side of the river. Orford had been founded and the first settler there was John Mann whose great, great grandson, Dr. Lewis Silver, was to be a summer resident for many years at Lake Morey. These early families across the river had left friends and relatives in the lower Connecticut regions and had also helped in deciding the first people of Fairlee to join them.

All histories of the time agree the first settler in Fairlee was John Baldwin. There is some difference of opinion as to the date, but the best evidence would place it in 1766. John Baldwin had been a friend of Mr. Mann's in their earlier days in Hebron and Mann has recorded the year of Baldwin's arrival. Not too much is known of John Baldwin personally except that he staked his first claim probably on the property

that now belongs to Mr. Everett Perkins. Apparently he wanted larger acreage later, however, as we find a deed dated July 14, 1806 in which he bought from Ebenezer Baldwin about forty acres "being a part of the Governor's five hundred acres lott so called." We know this was on the south line of Fairlee and was later to become known as the Heath farm, in turn passing on to Mr. Harvey Colton, the grandfather of Mrs. Charles Oliver.

Along with Mr. Baldwin the earliest settlers were Samuel Miller, Samuel Bentley, Noah Dewey, Joel White, William Thompson and David Thompson. Exactly where they settled or where they went to is not known. In the case of John Baldwin we are told he packed his family and belongings and left Fairlee in 1807 after his home had been destroyed by a tremendous flooding of the Connecticut River. However, the town continued to flourish during these years and some of the family names we know today were to take their first residence in town between 1769 and 1785. One of these was Samuel Smith, whose great granddaughter is Mrs. Seldon George. Her own daughter, Mrs. Earle Edmonds, lives in one of the ancestral Smith homes today, which is probably the earliest house in Fairlee still standing. We will read much more of Samuel Smith's part in the growth of the town, as a town official, a soldier, and as an upright citizen. An interesting anecdote of the Smith family concerns another settler, Ichabod Ormsbee. Mrs. Samuel Smith was the only woman in that part of the town and when there was a rumor of approaching Indians, Mr. Ormsbee spirited her across the river as a protection, Captain Smith himself being away on patrol. Both of these men had come from the Connecticut towns of Ashford and Woodstock respectively. In 1800 Darius Child arrived from North Woodstock, Connecticut and later bought a large farm on the river side of the main road just above the present location of the cemetery. His daughter married Mr. A. H. Gilmore, whose father emigrated from Londonderry, New Hampshire in 1815 and their farm was to stretch for many acres to the north of town and reach from the river west to the head of Lake Morey. Part of this western portion later was owned by the Davis family of which Mr. James Davis and Mrs. Warren Ordway have resided in Fairlee. Their farm itself was to become a part of the present camp Aloha Manor. In 1782 Israel Morey took up his residence in the Fairlee limits, although since its earliest days he had been most active in getting the new township on a firm foundation but had lived in Orford. General Morey's first home was about at the site of the future Abbott's mills, next to the Sumner Perkins home, and it is felt this is confirmed by a deed dated March 19, 1790 to Jezediah Buckingham in which Morey sold three acres "south by road running from the house where said Morey now lives, to the mill pond, thence north on the western shore of said pond, to the bridge leading over said pond, or pond brook,—thence south on the public road to the first bound, including the buildings thereon.—consideration 17 pounds." It is the



EARLY ROAD MACHINE

writer's belief the "buildings thereon" refer to a previous home of Morey's and he subsequently built across the road where Ray Godfrey now lives, although not the same house. We also know that this particular section was built up quite extensively by the Morey family, as the present home of Ralph Hodge was built by Peleg Morey, a nephew of the general's, and Moulton Morey was to build at a later date the present Charles Oliver home. It is further believed the old Leach house, where Ray Hoyt now lives, was a Samuel T. Morey house, as well as the home of Norman Barrett. Unfortunately, it is practically impossible to tell from the available records just where or by whom some of the early homes were built, because, as in the case of the Morey family, some of the early families owned so much property and the earliest deeds do not necessarily show if there were any buildings on them or not. One other name we cannot pass by in trying to tie the early days of town with the families of today is Pierce. Jedediah Pierce was a young boy when he first came to Fairlee and he was "farmed out" to Samuel Morey to work in the saw mill. The story is that when Mr. Pierce was married, Mr. Morey sold him a piece of land for \$60 on which he built a comfortable stone house. This is now part of the Verne Batchelder home and Mr. Pierce's granddaughter is Mrs. Homer Perkins. The house was built in 1823 and took its part in forming the mold of the past from which the present was to spring.

What did the Baldwins, Deweys, Smiths and Hammonds find when they arrived? Certainly not the broad main street, clearly defined lots, or the relative ease of living and working we know today! They had packed their few house utensils and necessary items of clothing, some food, and a gun onto their oxcart and struggled through the wilderness up the Connecticut valley, averaging perhaps twelve to fifteen miles a day, the travel getting rougher after they left Number Four at Charlestown, New Hampshire, and arrived to find themselves alone and weary in a maze of pine forest and more wilderness. They had met friendly neighbors on the way, yes, but the nearest neighbors were to be several miles away for the most part for the first year or two at least. However, their courage was good and their backs were strong, and the first requirement was a roof over their heads and food for their bodies. The first homes were of the log cabin type we know so well. Pine was plentiful and the only restraint might have been to not use such as was needed for the "Royal masting." It is certain in many cases even this limitation was not abided by. They were one-room cabins, some with only openings for a door and windows, both of which could be easily closed against the rigors of winter cold. Although the early settlers had to be on the watch for bear, the woods were full of birds and other animal life which could be easily caught and used for food. In the early days several sheep were raised, not only for their wool for clothing but as food and to give necessary fats for tallow and candles. Several grains could be grown, wheat, rye and corn but it was strictly a laborious

task as it had to be ground by hand, there being no mill until about 1783. Some loaded their sleds and took the grain to Charlestown, New Hampshire on the ice, fifty miles away, but most had to resort to the "plumping machine." This was made from a log over two feet long forming a large mortar at one end and a receptacle for the grain at the other and as the grain passed down from top to bottom it was worked by a large pestle. Life was hard, yes, but the town grew in population and self respect; and by 1790 we find a census of 132 free white males over sixteen, 120 under sixteen, 210 free white females, and one other, for a total of 463 souls.

Ten years before this, however, the foundations had been laid for a growing community and now was the time to take some legal form of its own. We must remember that the first settlers must be considered more as squatters than actual landowners. The original grants had been sold by the agents of Governor Wentworth on a very speculative basis, there was still no definite legal title possible because of the territorial arguments between New York and New Hampshire, and most of these heroic souls had staked out their future hoping it could be maintained. With the desire for permanency in mind, the first step was to properly lay out the town and we find notice of such purpose posted on May 21, 1774: "Province of New Hampshire, Grafton County, Orford:—This is to certify and warn the Proprietors of Fairlee in the County of Gloucester and province of New York to meet at the Dwelling House of Israel Morey Esq. in Orford aforesaid on Monday the 20 day of June next— First, To choose a moderator Second, To choose a Proprietor Clerk, Committee collector and all necessary Proprietor Officers Third, To see what the Proprietors will do about allotting out the Town and making necessary roads Fourth, To see what sum of money will be raised in order to defray the charges of allotting the Town and making necessary roads Fifth, To see what method the Proprietor will propose to call Proprietor meetings in future Sixth, The foregoing notifications agreed to by us the Subscriber Owners of Fifty two rights or Proprietor shares of land in said Fairlee. (signed) Israel Morey Jonathan Child Ichabod Ormsbee William Simpson Benjamin Jr. Ebenezer Baldwin." As a result of this meeting Israel Morey and Lt. Jonathan Child were appointed a committee to agree with Moses Caleb Willard and John Payne as surveyors "to allot the Township with equal divisions between the Proprietors in such form as may appear most just and equitable to said committee and that they cause a plan of said survey to be returned on the first day of August next —."

This plan was that each meadow lot was to consist of four acres and there were to be two house lots in each right of thirty acres. It further granted a hundred acre lot to each original right; and a house, meadow and hundred-acre lot to each of the fifty-two Proprietors.

Thus the physical layout of the town was planned but the towns-

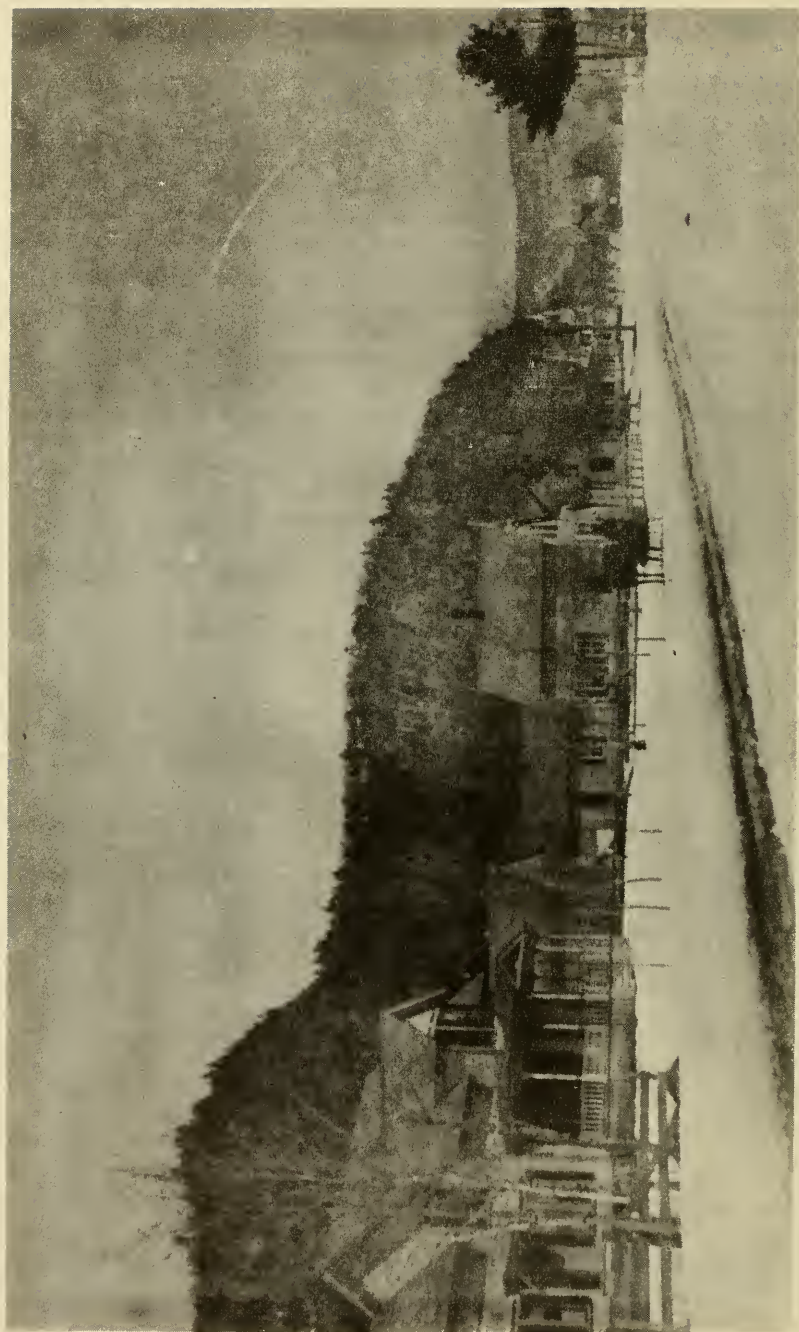
people themselves could not take matters into their own hands until 1782. In the meantime all business was done by the Proprietors. On October 24, 1782 the State Legislature meeting at Rutland passed the following "An Act to Enable the landowners of the Town of Fairlee in Orange County to meet and transact the business therein mentioned Whereas the proprietors of Fairlee while destitute of laws for that purpose held proprietors meetings nearly agreeable to the laws of New Hampshire by agreement of a majority of proprietors (viz) in the year 1774 did divide Fairlee Township into lots and have from time to time laid taxes in such meetings Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont that it shall be lawful for the landowners of one-sixteenth part of the land in said Town to cause a meeting too of said landowners to be warned and held agreeably to enact of the legislature of this state—."

Such act was the cornerstone on which the Town Meetings of Fairlee have rested for over one hundred and seventy years. They are now held the first Tuesday of March and the excitement that always fills the air has been present year in and year out. The stores on Fairlee Main Street are closed, the farm chores finished early or, as a very rare occurrence, are put off until tomorrow, and the bulk of the townsfolk descend on the Town Hall by auto, horse and wagon, or by foot. Although the day has a certain holiday spirit, it is full of the spirit of rugged Vermont that so well exemplifies the basis of our real democracy. With the meeting called for ten o'clock in the morning, small groups can be seen talking together in the coat rooms or shivering in the brisk March air on the Hall steps. The Warning has been posted and the articles for discussion and decision are by now well known and have been the subject of family debates for several prior evenings around the kitchen stove or in the local garage or store. How much will the tax rate go up? Who will be First Selectman? Why do we need school lunches or Federal aid? They all have finally filed in and the Moderator bangs his gavel to start the workings of a small-town democracy. Some heckling, perhaps, but all there for a purpose, fighting their cause sincerely and as the questions are raised the parade of voters to the ballot box begins. Off to one side of the platform is the ballot box to vote for or against the sale of spirituous liquors, or shall baseball and movies be allowed on Sundays. After the election of the Town officers, come the appropriation requests—the Memorial Day celebration, care of the cemetery, an amount "to balance the budget of the Water Department," road repair and construction, the school budget, and other general expenses. Argue, argue, argue, vote, vote, vote. By now it is noon and time to refresh the body with a delightful lunch served by the good ladies of the Church, and also a few minutes to cogitate on the funds that have been voted. Business again resumes and the Selectmen's report is eagerly awaited to learn the new tax rate. It's too late now, just a matter of simple arithmetic,

ordinary every day addition — the money has been appropriated, now it must be paid. Some are surprised the rate went up, some just plain disgusted, but all return to their homes knowing they each had an equal right in the guidance of their town for another year.

This comment on a Town Meeting might seem to apply more to those held in more recent years but history tells us the problems of the meetings from before 1800 until today have been basically the same, roads, schools, taxes and the like. We will cover in more detail the specific problems in their proper place but now are interested in the growth of the town and its people. Fairlee was to keep growing, from 239 in 1791 to a high point of 1,143 in 1820. In the meantime a political division had seemed warranted. Some feel it was because of the unfriendly feeling between Israel Morey and Nathaniel Niles, others that it was a natural division where there was a range of high hills running north to south, which were quite difficult for those residing in the western half of the township to cross, particularly during inclement weather. The first vote on this move was taken August 10, 1795 and those opposed won by the margin of 26 to 18. The proponents were determined, however, and on March 15, 1796 the vote was passed and referred to the State Legislature. Here in 1797 the move was approved but with the provision there was to be still only one representative from both Fairlee and West Fairlee to the State Assembly. This was to be proved unconstitutional in 1822 and from then on each town has had its own representation. By 1830, however, the great western migration had gotten under way and many from all the towns of the valley were heeding the call to go west. In many cases the farms had not proved as fertile as desired, the prices for farm goods had dropped rather sharply from 1817 to 1829, 1816 was called "the year without summer" or the "1800 and froze-to-death year," corn sold for \$1.00 a bushel and hay cost \$30.00 a ton, and it can be seen the same desires and hopes that originally brought these people's fathers from lower Connecticut in the 1760's were still resting in the souls of their sons in the 1820's. The age of the Iron Horse had arrived, the opening of the Erie Canal, and the midwest was beckoning all too strongly for some. Consequently, by 1830 the population of Fairlee dropped to 656, almost 500 in ten years and, although the trend was not to be as sharp, the downward figures continued for the rest of the century so that today (1950 census) the population is about the same as 1850 or 571 inhabitants.

What was the average home life like a century and a half ago in Fairlee? It is sometimes difficult today to realize how many things have come into use to make our life easier in an actually short span of years. The automobile seems to have been as common as the winter cold since time immemorial, the first days of radio with its headphones and long distance with perhaps a Boston station seems unheard of today with worldwide reception and the new invention of getting pictures



MAIN STREET — CIRCA 1910

from the atmosphere by the miracle of television. Mail can come from all corners of the globe, but a century ago it was a long dusty ride for the post rider to bring it even a few miles. Today the newest fashion in women's hats can be seen at Mrs. Chapman's millinery or the Sears Roebuck catalog brings the biggest choice of any needed article to our home in a few day's time. It was not ever thus, however. The early settlers of town were basically poor. Their food was supplied entirely from their own farms and by their own sweat and toil. The clothing was homespun, as we remember sheep was a very important animal on most farms, not only for its value as a wool giver to his owner but in the commercial market. The women of the family made their own soap and candles, and the girls did the sewing and quilting, while brothers and fathers were clearing the land, raising the stock and vegetables, making their own nails after iron became more plentiful and replaced the need of wooden pegs. With the passing of the first hard years and after the homes had been more substantially built and the farm was on a satisfactory basis, there was more leisure time for all the family.

The improvement of the roads made gathering of families and friends more possible, now that time was a little freer. These gatherings many times served a practical purpose, as well as being social. The common form of entertainment was a "bee" or "raising" of some sort. There was usually a piling bee or chopping bee to attend; or the raising of a house or barn for some good neighbor. By the middle of the century county fairs had become common and many undertook the trip to Tunbridge for a day's outing, as they do today. In the wintertime such activities were, of necessity, somewhat curtailed. The more hardy, however would take their reliable horse and go for a sleighride; or, if of a sporting nature, race his horse on Lake Morey. Another important winter social was the weekly dance and many are the stories of the ability of Selah George to cut a few capers on the dance floor.

Another source of entertainment and relief from the chores of the day for the men folks especially was the usual daily visit to the general store. This is still carried on today to a lesser and more practical degree in such meeting places as Saladino's Garage or the Post Office; but the "fragrance compounded of cheese and molasses, tarred rope and fertilizer, over-ripe bananas and common crackers, tobacco, buckets of penny candies, vinegar, rubber boots, heaps of overalls and heavy leather work shoes" no longer exists. It did exist, however, in Warren's store or Thurber's clothing emporium fifty years ago. Those were the days when the really important issues were settled, such as Mr. Paine's argument for one central school, the huge allowance of fifteen dollars for the new public library, the most recent break in the privately-owned water system, the vast growth of Lake Morey cottages, why the town should keep on providing food and shelter for itinerant tramps, or even a new dress that Mrs. Kate Brennan had just sewed for Mrs. So. and So.

Today that has largely gone, or at least the mellowness of the atmosphere in which it thrived; but, to quote again Hayden S. Pearson writing in the "United Opinion," "if all men could sit down for a spell each day in warm weather and join a forum on a store porch, we believe many of the pressing contemporary itches would be satisfactorily scratched and the general welfare of society greatly improved."

From the standpoint of the arts, the early years did not have much to offer. History tells us books were few but most homes had a copy of the Bible, sometimes a general book on health, and, as it came into being, always the "Farmer's Almanack." Toward 1850 newspapers were to be available. In 1848 Lyman McIndoe, brother-in-law of Charles Waterman of Fairlee, was to start as a semi-monthly publication the "Aurora of the Valley." This was gradually changed to a weekly issue and was the forerunner of the present "United Opinion." In 1858 he also published the "Orange County Journal" and a few people undoubtedly had access to the "Connecticut Courant" which was probably the oldest regular newspaper in New England. There had been published even as early as 1796 in Newbury the "Orange Nightingale and Newbury Star" but it is believed this was of very short duration. A typical issue of the "Aurora" about 1870 included political, editorial, Washington news, New England news, farm suggestions, ladies styles, health notes on pure air and spring disorders, horse breeding, farm prices, and often a continued story such as "Wedlock Among Rocky Mountain Indians," "Recovery From The Pit" (favoring temperance), or "the Bankrupt's Daughter or Fortune's Changes." With the establishment of the Library in 1898 more and better reading was available. During the time of the Opera House, Fairlee was also offered plays of a melodramatic nature by the travelling road companies of the day; and entertainment was also offered by the various church groups as today, of which more will be said later.

Some of the laws passed pertaining to the regular daily life of the people may seem to us today to be of a rather severe nature. We must remember, however, that the early settlers were still filled with the strict teachings of colonial Congregationalism and believed a rigid control of man's morals a town-wide obligation. A few of the laws passed by the Legislature in 1779 will show the official control that was exerted over the mores of the day. A fine up to ten pounds was assessed for violation of the law whereby "no tradesman, artificer, laborer, or other person whatsoever, shall, upon land or water, do or exercise any labour, business, or work, of their ordinary callings, or any kind whatsoever nor use any game, sport, play, or recreation, on the Lord's day, or day of public fasting, and thanksgiving." That the vicinity of the house of worship was to be fully guarded was assured by a still harsher law in its penalties which required a fine of forty shillings and from five to ten stripes on the naked back for "whatever

person shall be guilty of any rude, profane, or unlawful behavior on the Lord's day, whether in words or actions, by clamorous discourse, or by shouting, hollooming, screaming, running, riding, dancing, jumping, blowing of horns...." near the house of worship. Rum was a demon then as now and the histories are full of its widespread use in all the towns of early Vermont. Drunkenness was regarded as a crime against the public and was subject to a fine of eight shillings to be used for the care of the poor. If the offender had no money, he was sit in the stocks from one to three hours. There is no record the writer has been able to find of stocks being set up in Fairlee. It appears, however, from a law passed in 1779 that such may have existed as every town was required to "make and maintain, at their own charge, a good pair of stocks, with a lock and key sufficient to hold and secure such offenders as shall be sentenced to sit therein; which stocks shall be set in the most public place...." As each town that did not have stocks was itself subject to a fine, it seems fair to assume Fairlee would comply and they were probably set about where the bandstand is now. Because a closely-knit town was needed to overcome the many problems of getting started and untruth could be of such a damaging nature, the penalty for intentional lying by anyone over fourteen was particularly severe, being a fine of forty shillings or sitting in the stocks up to three hours for the first offense, and double the fine or whipped up to ten stripes for a second offense.

There were many other laws with respect to connubial relations and other offenses as there are today. The penalties were in line with the crime and, as one ponders the whippings and sittings in the stocks that must have prevailed, it seems that possibly these were by far a more potent deterrent to violations of the law than some of the penalties imposed in this supposedly enlightened era.

Fairlee in its earlier days was largely agricultural. The census of 1842 showed 184 people engaged in agriculture, 2 in commerce, 13 in trades and 3 in the professions. It is true these figures have changed in the last hundred years and today its main income is from recreation and servicing vacationists. When Vermont first became a state, she took steps to encourage her people in the development of agricultural activities as in other fields, and we can assume many in Fairlee tried their hand. In 1792 a bounty of forty dollars was recommended to be given to anyone who could raise within two and one-half years not less than two tons of hemp "fit for market and merchantable." A bounty of two shillings was offered for every pound of raw silk raised in seven years, and, quite uncommon to the North, ten shillings for one hundred pounds of refined loaf sugar. Of particular interest to Fairlee was a law passed about this same time which was for the protection of the good name of Vermont and its manufacturers. In Orange county, particularly in the Thetford-Vershire area, were some copper mines and some iron. These veins stretched into the limits of Fairlee but

were never successfully worked. The law, however, would apply to all "that every Barr of Iron, made in this State, shall be stamped with the Name of the Owner of the Forge where it is made—and the Name of the Town where the forge stands, and that every Barr of Iron that shall be sold, or offered for sale, or carried from any Forge for market without being so stamped, shall be forfeited." We shall learn later of the more commercial development of the town, but under this has been the same foundation as worked by the people a century ago making a town devoted largely to the soil and its returns.

Fairlee has never been a town of particular wealth although we are prompt to say its folks have always been able to keep their heads high and maintain a reputation of honest and hardworking men and women. Like so many of their fellow New England townsmen, their desire has been for an honest life and one of high principles and courage. With the probable exception of Israel Morey, Nathaniel Niles and Darius Child, none of the early settlers had too much of worldly goods. Hard money was always scarce in the beginning and the records show a good part of the taxes were paid in wheat, corn, or even manual labor. The first men to make any fortune, by comparison, did so in land transactions, and the deeds of the town show that in a few short years after 1766 most of the original rights had been bought up by two or three people. Of these, Morey and Niles stand out; Morey soon owning a good portion of the eastern part of the township and Niles the western. They could be considered the land tycoons of their day and it is not the least doubtful that a strong rivalry existed between them. It was this jealousy, perhaps, which led ultimately to the division of the township in 1797. The early grand lists of Fairlee (three of which are shown in full in the Appendix) give us some unusual sidelights to the standing in the community of some families. Of the 46 polls in 1784 more than half, 26, did not own any land, their assets being largely oxen and cows. It was still the time of settlement and oxen for clearing the land and a cow to provide milk, beef, and hides were of the greatest importance. There were thirty oxen and only sixteen horses. The largest herd of cows was owned by Edward Green, but he owned no land. Swine were quite prominent, there being 17. Of the total tax imposed of 769 pounds, well over one half was paid by less than a quarter of the polls; Israel Morey being the largest taxpayer. The grand list of 1791 shows one very important fact in the growth of the town. In 1784 there were 20 taxable landowners, by 1791 the number had increased to 57 in the landed gentry class, so to speak. Wealth was still measured universally in land and farm stock, and, as in 1784, Israel Morey continued as Fairlee's largest landowner, although it is interesting to note, his tax was surpassed by Nathaniel Niles whose wealth was more in stock. With the turn of the century, a major change took place in taxable assets, as now more personal property was to come under the

scrutiny of the tax collector. Whereas in former years, land and live-stock were alone taxable, in 1812 we find added not only houses, but chairs, clocks and watches. It is somewhat difficult to understand on what basis these last items were counted, as we find only one chair listed and that was owned by Samuel Smith with a value of twenty dollars. To his credit, it may be suggested he wanted to lead a good example himself, being the tax collector. He, in fact, was one of the wealthiest men at this time in Fairlee from some standards, not only having the only taxable chair, but also one of the four clocks listed and one of the two watches so shown. The other clocks were owned by Litt. Granger, B. D. Morey, and Peter Marston. The only other watch was owned by Moulton Morey, the son of Fairlee's early great leader and himself a highly respected member of the legal profession, although largely retired.

The tax list of 1812 also throws light on another developmental stage of the town's history. By this year there were listed fifteen houses of sufficient value for tax purposes. Of these, ten were assessed at one hundred dollars, three at two hundred dollars, and two at three hundred dollars. The last were owned by Litt. Granger and the estate of Benjamin Wheeler; and the so called middle group by Solomon and Samuel Bliss, William Baldwin, Samuel and Charles Coburn, Samuel and Moulton Morey, Solomon Mann, Thomas and Rufus Ormsbee. This points up a fact which is believed to have been true in Fairlee, as in so many small towns, great share of the wealth was concentrated in a few families. It is believed fair to say this condition has continued to exist up to the present time. It also shows that for most of these folks their lives were dedicated to an honest but modest living, and their wealth was not in the more material things of life, but a dominant spirit, good character, and the bare joys of life itself.

Wars

PRIDE in personal liberties and home has always been a characteristic of Vermonters, as of all true Americans. The threat to their freedom, therefore, was promptly met by the sons of Fairlee when it reared its head through possible attack by the British from Canada, the covetous land grabbers from New York, or those who were seeking a change of state boundaries from New Hampshire. It seems almost fantastic that this period of Fairlee's growth and fight for independence should be directly tied to today, as the leader in the physical skirmishes, at least, was Captain Samuel Smith, the great grandfather of one of the town's most revered women today, Mrs. Selden George.

Like so many of the early settlers, Samuel Smith came from Connecticut, from the little town of Ashford. Immediately taking his place among men, he was known to have been with Ira and Ethan Allen on a campaign of nine days in 1777. He later was a lieutenant and with thirteen men and seven horses led his company to Strafford in August 1777 to repulse a threatened attack by British troops from the north. His fellow townsman, William Child, wrote a century later "though not possessing sufficient eloquence to attempt to assert our rights before a Constitutional Congress, yet he was ever ready to maintain them by force of arms if necessary." Known for his faith in the right and his ability to be a leader of men, Governor Thomas Chittenden appointed Samuel Smith the Captain of the local militia company. Mrs. George has many memories and tokens of the past, but probably none of which she is more proud than the original commission which reads:

Thomas Chittenden Esq. Captain General, Governor and
Commander in Chief over the State of Vermont

To Samuel Smith Gentleman: You being Elected Captain of the
Militia Company in Fairley Reposing Especial trust and Confidence in
your Patriotism Valour Conduct and fidelity I do by these presents

In the Name of the freemen of this State Authorize and impower you to take charge of S Company as their Captain you are therefore carefully and Dilligently to discharge the duty of Captain of S Company by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging and I do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your command to be obedient to your orders as Captain and you are to observe and obey such orders and directions from time to time as you may receive from me, the Governor of this State for the time being or other your superior officer according to the rules and discipline of War and the Laws of this State.

Given under my hand in Council Bennington June 23, 1778

By his Excellency

Command M Lyon D. Sec'y

Thos. Chittenden

Capt Smiths

Commission "

That the Fairlee company was always in readiness to march or do its duty in any way is a matter of record. Love of home and desire to get on with the important job of settling their families and founding their town on a firm basis had to be set aside all too frequently to answer the call to a greater job, that of maintaining their personal freedom which was the life blood of their existence. The war records show Smith and his men called to do patrol duty at Newbury, Royalton, and surrounding territory from the period of October 1780 to the following March for a few days at a time; and one such payroll record lists ten days service for which his company was paid seventeen pounds, eight shillings and seven pence. This same payroll gives us the names of other Fairlee men who served and who were to be known in these early days as the true founders of the town as we know it today, such names as John Marston, John Woodworth, Elijah Blood, William Marston, Solomon Morey, Jonathan Jacobs, Theodorus Woodward, and others. Always ready, always willing, regardless of where the call might send them. Some of the orders directed to Captain Smith are interesting as they show the indefiniteness of the day as no one knew from day to day from what point a new challenge to security might appear. Incidentally your attention is called to the various spellings of our town that were used in those days. In 1781 we find an order addressed to Captain Smith at Ferrley dated "Theadford February 28, 1781. Sir:are to order you forthwith to raise out of the Town of Ferley three able Bodyed men with Equipt for the present campain (sic) which will last till December next except sooner Discharged and make return to me with your doings thereon as quick as may be agreeable to orders—
for his Excellency Thos. Chittenden

PETER OLCOTT Col."

Or later in the campaign we see the danger of Indians was still a very present one in the lives of these men and not just a storybook

possibility as we might believe today:—"Sir. In consequence of special orders from Col. Peter Olcott it is hereby enjoined upon you to see that your company is forthwith Examined and put in perfect Readiness to march at the shortest notice when and where they shall be Directed by futor orders as an Express is Re. from Major Whitcomb that 200 torys and 300 Indians have landed near upon River In haste obliges me to subscribe myself
Yours Israel Smith Maj."

Sometimes needless patrols it may have seemed, sometimes merely to be on the alert for future orders, sometimes active guard duty as result of an order such as "special order from Genl Washington" that "Thetford and Fairley provide 10 men prepared to guard Continental Stores at Newbury at a minutes warning"—no matter what, we find in all files available men like Captain Smith, Lieutenant Israel Morey, or just the raw soldier like Philo Chandler and his many companions in arms ready to answer the call. They served willingly and well and hoped, as peace came, their sons and grandsons could carry on their work at home without such interruptions in the future.

Unfortunately for posterity the records of those serving in the Revolutionary War from Fairlee, or any town, are not always too exact. It is possible, however, from some sources to determine some of the names and among the gravestones for example we can find such names as Francis Churchill, Benjamin Follett, Samuel Woods, Asa Woodward, and Lieutenant Ebenezar Cook. From the western part of town that was later to become West Fairlee, we find such names as William Cox, who took part in the Boston Tea Party, Solomon Dickinson, Joseph Foster, John Gould, Jonathan Lougee, Calvin Morse, Francis Whitcomb, and Stephen May. From payroll lists in Captain Smith's company were such Fairlee names as John and William Marston, John Woodworth, Elijah Blood, Solomon Morey, Jonathan Jacobs, and Peter Marston; and heading his company of loyal volunteers was Lieutenant Israel Morey.

The call to arms was done by a Town Meeting and we have a record of such a one held March 2, 1781, when it was "voted to Raise three men to serve until the Fifteenth of December unless sooner discharged said men to scout and guard the Frontiers Also Voted to Raise our quota of Provision in order to support said men the present Campaign Voted that Capt Ichabod Ormsbee Wm Marston Jr and Elijah Blood be a Committee to agree with and hire three men to serve until the Fifteenth of December unless sooner Discharged. True copy of the doings of Town Meeting Attest Samuel Smith T. Clerk." The men so called were required to have, in addition to clothing and blanket "1 good Musquet, 1 good Bayonet or Tomahawk, 1 good Knapsack, 1 Powder (flask or horn), 1 Bullet Pouch, and a sufficient Timp line (or slip for Packs)."

One of the most complete records we have of Fairlee men during this war was the record of men who served in the alarums of October

1780 to March 1781, going to Newbury and Royalton. Although not all were from Fairlee homes, they were led by Captain Samuel Smith and the lists included Sergeant John Marston, John Woodworth, Elijah Blood, Charles, Jacob and Isaac Annis, William and Peter Marston, Asa Taft, William Broughton, John Green, Solomon Morey, Francis Hough, Simeon Morey, Jonathan Jacobs, Theodorus Woodward, and John Jacobs.

The war was not to be fought only by men called to serve their turn in the scouting expeditions and possible firing lines. As in all times of civil unrest since that day, Fairlee as a town was called upon to do her share. With hard money scarce and embargoes on many supplies, it was not possible for the state to buy for cash all her needs and in October 1780 the following act was passed:— "whereas the state of the present currency, or medium of trade, is such that it is difficult to procure necessities to supply the army, without calling on each town for a quota of supplies," Fairlee was required to send to the Commissary General 900 pounds of flour, 300 pounds of beef, 150 pounds of salted pork, 33 bushels of Indian corn, and 16 ½ bushels of rye. That this was done there is no question nor record in the further annals of the Assembly that any town shirked in her duty to support the cause of independence and freedom from the depressing yoke of the British crown.

As history has noted, however, in time our nation was again to be torn by war, this time perhaps one of our own making, when a possible division of the states became imminent. The War between the States found Vermont sending more of her men to battle in proportion to the total population than any other state and we can proudly say Fairlee did her full share in this respect. We must remember that the response was not just one of necessity but also of pride, pride in the belief in the freedom of man. In her original constitution in 1791 Vermont had outlawed slavery, the first state to do so, and this hatred of keeping men in bondage was a basic part of these men's character. There was also the very vital fact that these men realized only too well the strength of a united nation, as their ancestors had seventy years before. Although the first troops were raised by voluntary enlistment with the offer of a federal bonus of \$100 in July 1861, we find news of the first shot on Fort Sumter having been received in Fairlee only a short time before the enlistment of Darius Child on May 2nd along with George Lougee. In this same year nineteen men answered the call, to be followed in 1862 by fourteen more, four in 1863, eleven in 1864, and one in 1865. Under the terms of the 1863 Conscription Law, it was possible to hire a substitute for service, or to be fully excused upon payment of \$300. None in Fairlee bought his full release from military duty and only one hired a substitute. To paraphrase the words of General John Sedgwick before the Battle of Gettysburg "Put the Vermonters ahead and keep the column well closed up" is

Thomas Chittenden Esq. Captain General Governor
and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Vermont.

I do hereby certify that Samuel Smith Esq. Lieutenant
you being elected Captain of the 11th Co. Company in Fairlee, Stopping
Special Agent & Confidence in your Patriotic & Valiant Conduct and
Fidelity to the State, present to the Name of the Governor of this State
Authority and empower you to take charge of the 11th Company
as their Captain you are therefore carefully & diligently to discharge
the duty of Captain of the Company by doing & performing all manner
of things therein to be required and do solemnly charge & require all
officers & soldiers under your command to be obedient to your orders
as Captain and you are to observe & obey such orders & directions from time
to time as you may receive from me, the Governor of this State for the
time being or other your superior officer according to the rules and
discipline of the as to the Laws of this State Given under my hand
Council Chamber June 23. 1798

Thos Chittenden

By his Secretary
Command M. Lyon Secy

Capt Smith's
Commissary

to say all the men of town did their duty well and with honor. Many rose to higher ranks such as Lieutenant Lewis Child of the Eighth Regiment, Lieutenant Darius Child of the same unit, and several who became non-commissioned officers. But officers or privates, they all fought long and hard, from the battle of Big Bethel, Virginia on June 10, 1861 to Lees's Mills, Williamsburg, (where the Fourth Regiment was noted for its bravery), to Spottsylvania, Waterloo Bridge, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Second Battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg, Appomattox Court House, to Wilderness, Virginia May 5, 1864—anywhere, everywhere, through the bloody years of civil bloodshed we find the men of Fairlee at their places.

Of the forty-nine men who served, and remember this was almost ten percent of the entire population, seventeen were wounded or disabled requiring discharge. Private Don Fuller of Company G, Tenth Regiment was killed in the battle at Winchester, Virginia September 19, 1864. His was the only actual death on the field, but five died directly from wounds, five died from the dread disease which was almost an unconquerable part of camp life during the war, four were discharged for various disabilities, and three for definite wounds. Private Gilman Hammond of Company D, Eighth Regiment, one of the first to enlist, died from wounds and was buried in the National Cemetery at Chalmette, Louisiana.

It has been noted that the enlistments became fewer as the war years lengthened and it became apparent the end was not in sight. The soldiers' pay of thirteen dollars a month was surely no incentive to enlist and we find the financing of the war becoming a problem in itself, as has been and always will be in all wars. It cannot be said, however, the town nor the men were showing any loss of pride in the cause of unity. In 1864 we find on May 11th a special Town Meeting authorizing \$100 each to Lewis Child, Stephen Mann, Asa Kenison, and Daniel Davis who had reenlisted. In August another special meeting approved a bonus of \$300 for each man or substitute accepted for enlistment for a period of three years unless sooner discharged. This did not have the desired results, however, as with the town hopeful of meeting its quota of the draft, it was necessary in another Town Meeting called December 27, 1864 to raise the bounty to \$300 for one year with an additional like amount for each year up to three years. Pride of participation alone was not all, however, as in the following March we find the voters of town concerned with the wellbeing of their men from the standpoint of clothing. On March 7th the annual Town Meeting "authorized to procure a pair of pants for each of the eleven volunteers" but with an interesting proviso—"other towns in Regiment make the same provision." Apparently our men were to be warm but not overly stylish by comparison.

Of the forty-four men who answered the calls for volunteers from Fairlee twenty-six were actual residents, the others coming from

nearby towns, although officially listed from Fairlee. That the call of 1861 was the largest is natural, there being nineteen men responding. In 1862 there were fourteen, 1863 received four. By the next year the original enlistment terms of many had run out, but the need of men was still great and the fever of patriotism still ran high, with the result a total of eleven entered the rolls of honor. The final year, 1865, saw the enrollment of only one, he being the only Fairlee man to serve on the sea.

That these men were in the thick of the fight is evident, not only from the battles in which their regiments took part, but from the records of those wounded or disabled sufficiently to be discharged. Of these, there were four with serious disabilities, three with wounds, although four were to die as a result of battle scars so bravely won. Disease was even worse than the hit of a bullet; and, although five were to die as a result of disease, we know many more contracted it on the battlefield. One man was to be killed and it seems as though Fate must have played her grave part. That was Dan Fuller, killed in the battle of Winchester, Virginia, the same Dan Fuller who a short six years before had had his name scratched from the rolls of the Church for the "use of profane language and intoxicating liquor as a beverage." He paid the price, but he must have known there is a little bit of good in every man.

For one who is especially interested in the battles in which the Fairlee men took part, there are available many histories and books of record. May it suffice at this point, therefore, to merely list for the general reader those of more important a nature and of more familiar knowledge. The First Regiment was mustered in at Rutland on May 2, 1861 and, after a huge and colorful parade in New York City, was stationed at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. It was soon to see action and was in the thick of the fight at Hampton, Little Bethel and probably the first major encounter of the war, the battle of Big Bethel on June 10, 1861.

The Fourth Regiment, as a part of the so called Old Brigade, known for its outstanding valor, saw major action at Lee's Mills on April 16 and Williamsburg on May 5, 1862.

The Fifth and Sixth Regiments, also part of the Old Brigade, were stationed at Fortress Monroe and took part in the Peninsula and Wilderness campaigns, seeing action at the Battle of Warwick Creek, April 6, 1862; Lee's Mills on April 16th; Williamsburg; Golding's Farm, June 28 and 29, 1862; the battle at Gainesville on October 19, 1863; and the major struggle at Spottsylvania on May 5 to 10, 1864.

The Eighth Regiment was in the occupation of New Orleans in May 1862 and saw substantial fighting at Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864.

The Tenth Regiment was at Orange Grove, Virginia on November 27, 1863; Spottsylvania; Winchester, and Cedar Creek in 1864.

The Twelfth Regiment consisted largely of business and professional men who were unable to enlist for more than ninety days. They answered the call of President Lincoln on August 4, 1862 and were assigned largely to guard and picket duty.

The Sharpshooters, who were required to put ten successive bullets in a five-inch target one hundred yards distant, seemed to be in the fray at many major moments. They saw action at Rappahannock Station from August 21 to 24, 1862; the Second Battle of Bull Run on August 29 and 30; Fredericksburg, December 12 to 16; Chancellorville on May 2 to 4 the next year, along with the Battle of Gettysburg on July 2 to 4, 1863; and they wound up their campaigning at Wilderness, Virginia from May 5 to 8, 1864. Fairlee can well be proud of the two men who served in these campaigns as sharpshooters, Daniel and Frank Davis, the former dying from wounds received at Wilderness on May 6th.

CIVIL WAR VOLUNTEERS

Name	Mustered		Remarks
	Enlisted	Out	
First Regiment Company D			
Darius Child	5- 2-61	8-15-61	Reenlisted 8th Reg.
George Lougee	5- 2-61	6-13-61	Died Fortress Monroe
Fourth Regiment Company B			
Levi Marston	8-17-61	5-29-62	Discharged disability
Fifth Regiment Band			
Lewis Jenkins	9- 9-61	4-11-62	
Sixth Regiment Company B			
Gilbert Clifford	8-12-62	6-19-65	Taken prisoner during Wilderness Campaign, pardoned 3-21-64, but died of disease.
Amos Sawyer	8-12-62	6-19-65	Wounded Spottsylvania 5-12-64, Corporal 5-14-65
Elliot Sawyer	9-25-61	6- 5-64	Corporal 10-16-64 Sergeant 4-2-65
First Regiment Calvary Company B			
James O. Griffin	9-24-62	6-21-65	
First Regiment Calvary Company D			
Abia Hutton	11-30-63	8- 9-65	
Eighth Regiment Quartermaster Sergeant			
William H. Gilmore	12- 7-61	6-22-64	

Comm. Sgt. Lewis Child	12- 7-61	6-30-65	Lieutenant 12-6-63 Co. C Reenlisted 6-5-64. Horse shot under him Cedar Cr.
Stephen Mann	12- 2-61	6-28-65	Reenlisted 6-5-64

Eighth Regiment Company C

Dallas Bonette	9- 2-64	6- 1-65	
David Burns	12- 9-64	2-18-65	Substitute for Wm. Cilley

Eighth Regiment Company D

2nd Lieut. Darius Child	12- 8-61	7-20-62	Died
Willard H. Child	8-29-64	6- 1-65	
Freeman K. Clement	8-23-64	6- 1-65	
Russell D. Colby	12-17-61	10-22-63	Discharged
Milton H. Davis	1- 4-64	6-28-65	
Alfred Derby	8-10-64	7-19-65	
Albert C. Fuller	1- 1-64	6-28-65	
Gilman S. Hammond	12-17-61	9- 4-62	Died 9-10. Buried Nat'l Cem., Chalmotte, La.
Walker S. Horton	8-25-64	6- 1-65	
Mason B. Jenkins	12-26-61	10- 5-63	For Wounds 5-27-63
Thomas J. Jenkins	12-16-61	9-27-63	Disabled
Asa S. Kenison	12- 7-61	6-28-65	Reenlisted 1-5-64
Jonathan C. Lufkin	12- 7-61	3-28-63	
Monroe Shumway	12- 7-61	12-15-62	Died of disease

Eighth Regiment Company K

Albert D. Grant	12- 1-63	6-29-65	For wounds 10-19-64
Perley Roberts	11-30-63	6-28-65	Corp. 6-12-64, Sgt. 3-20-65

Ninth Regiment Company G

Chester C. Whitney	6- 4-62	8-15-62	Died of disease
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Tenth Regiment Company G

Dan B. Fuller	7-29-62	9- 9-64	Killed Winchester, Va.
Arthur W. Marston	7-21-62	6-22-65	

Twelfth Regiment (Bradford Guards) Company H

Corp. Linus P. Waterman	8-25-62	2- 5-63	Discharge - disability
Royal A. Morris	8-23-62	7-14-63	
Daniel W. Morey	8-23-62	7-14-63	
Walter B. Paine	8-23-62	5-18-63	Discharge - disease
George H. Pierce	9- 3-62	7-14-63	
John C. Putnam	8-15-62	7-14-63	
Clark M. Smith	8-25-62	7-14-63	
Benjamin A. Stratton	8-25-62	1-21-63	Died of disease

Second U. S. Sharpshooters Company E

Daniel T. Davis	11- 1-61	6-23-64	Reenlisted 12-21-63. Died wounds at Wilderness, Va. 5-6-64
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Frank M. Davis	11- 1-61	11- 9-64	
	Unassigned Recruits		
Henry H. Blake	8-23-62	- ?-	Died of disease
	Substitute Sailor or Marine		
Herman Mansfield for J. Wilber Morris	3- -65	7-28-66	Served on Ashuelot, Osceola, and Wampanoag.

Added to these, must be the name of Ebenezer Whiting, who, although a member of the 28th Massachusetts Infantry, was killed at the battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia on June 3, 1864 and is buried in Brushwood Cemetery.

The war effort then, as in both World Wars since, has not been confined entirely to the male inhabitants of town. As in every community project, national, state, or local, the women have done their share and without complaint. It is not hard to envisage the women of Fairlee planning recitals, maybe a strawberry festival, scrimping a little here and there to save a few dollars, or just canvassing door to door to raise funds for a cause very dear to their hearts. In the Town Report of March 1, 1864 we find the following record: "The Fairlee Ladies Sewing Circle and other Benevolent individuals by their monotonous labors procured a Hearse." This was presented to the town under the conditions "That the patriotic labors of the Fairlee Soldiers Aid Society in their efforts for the benefit and comfort of our brave soldiers, who are periling their lives for the suppression of a most wicked and gigantic Rebellion....shall be a fair and equivalent offset to the labors of the Fairlee Sewing Circle in procuring a Hearse....to be used by all classes, high and low; rich and poor." The town was to further agree to keep the hearse and hearse house, located just south of the present Church on the mall, in good condition. So it went, each and everyone doing his or her share in the struggle for unity, knowing in their every deed they were helping to preserve that for which their fathers had so gallantly fought years ago, independence for self and home.

The clouds of war finally passed and Fairlee returned to peace and its own local problems; but as is true of the skies above, another cloud was to appear toward the end of the century, the war with Spain. Again the muster drums called, but this time Fairlee was not destined to have any son serve the colors. Company G of the Vermont National Guard was activated and F. A. Pierce enlisted as a private, only to be rejected for active duty for medical reasons. We can assume, however, the people were not to shirk any opportunity to help although the reasons for this encounter were not too closely associated with their lives.

Again peace was not to be allowed to reign for long and the call to arms to meet the crazed onslaught of Kaiser Wilhelm was

echoed up and down the valley of the Connecticut. Followers in the cause of independence from tyranny of any sort again rallied to the cry. Fourteen of Fairlee's sons were to bear the arms of Uncle Sam's army and two to do their share in the battles at sea. Unfortunately the records of their activities are not as detailed as we were able to find in the war between the states, but the nature of Fairlee men and women has never been to shirk, and it can be said with certainty their parts were played with glory. The following sons answered the call:

ARMY

Sgt. Ralph Adams
 Sherman Bragg
 Pfc. Roland Gardner
 Lieut. Leslie Griffin
 Charles Pike
 Frank Rugg
 Sgt. Raymond Switser
 Wilder Weeks

Reginald Munn

Ray Godfrey
 Harrison Colby
 Harold C. Bard
 Alfred Bacon

NAVY

Ens. Milton Hard
 Alfred Modisette

While these loyal sons were away, the ones left at home also did their full share; and the records are full of satisfactory reports on Fairlee's part in such programs as War Savings Stamps, Victory gardens, Red Cross work, and all the demands made upon a civilian population to help the major fight towards ultimate victory.

The victory was won, it was supposed, and Fairlee along with the rest of the world was allowed to return to doing its own quiet task in the cycle we call human life. Peace seemed to be really accomplished for almost a quarter of a century. Again, however, the clouds were to gather and the crazed mind of Adolph Hitler was to rise in all its madness. Would it ever stop, this raising sons and daughters to be used as cannon fodder to quell maniacal ideas? Again the blare of trumpets and drawing of lots to see who must be the first to go, unless the voluntary enlistment had taken precedence. Fifty-two men and women, almost ten percent, of the town's young were to offer up their life blood for the ideals they held so dear. Their record is nobly written in the list of citations individually won, although personal modesty will not permit the holders to enlarge upon their deeds, crowned by the supreme sacrifice as made by one of the fellows around town in former days, a well-liked, respected youth with the world ahead of him — Harvey Colton Oliver, killed on the field of battle in Belgium December 24, 1944. May his sacrifice not have been in vain!

His memory has been perpetuated by the forming of the Harvey Colton Oliver Post No. 8504, Veterans of Foreign Wars formed in 1946 with an average of about fifty members and its auxiliary in 1947 of some twenty women members.

ARMY

Pvt. Calvin Ackerman

S/Sgt. Lloyd Ackerman

2nd Lt. Lois Ackerman

Sgt. Beatrice Anderson
S1/C Richard Blake
F2/C EM Earl Barrett
S1/C Alvin Bancroft
Ens. Clellan Chapman
S2/C Winston Churchill
Ens. Ruth Gulick
SF1/C Russell Gulick
EM3/C Donald Gulick
Sgt. Leroy Lackey
QM3/C Lyle Lackey
C/M R. DeWitt Mallary
Sig. 2/C John Ryan
S1/C Howard Shequin
CPO Thomas Snow
Clyde B. Lake
Albert Burgess
Clifton Colby
William Lange
Harold Cookson
David Matthews
Frank Ward
Amassa Whitcomb
Clarence Rogers

Clyde Blake
Albert Burgess
Clifton Colby
William Lange
Harold Cookson
David Matthews
Frank Ward
Amassa Whitcomb
Clarence Rogers

The military history of Fairlee would not be complete without special mention of an event that was to be of more happy remembrance than the calls to fend off the armed resistance of a political enemy or the doleful reports of the wounded husband, brother, or friend

from the fields of Bull Run or the woods of Chateau Thierry. This was the annual encampment of the Vermont National Guard on August 12-17, 1895, more kindly known as "muster." It was through the efforts of Fairlee's own Major-General William H. Gilmore, who was Quarter-Master General of the Guard, that the site was chosen. Today it serves as the portion of the golf course in front of the Lake Morey Inn, but sixty years ago was the scene of the first complete manoeuvres of the infantry, calvary, and artillery as a unit in the history of Guard encampments. Monday was the day of assemblage, with the arrival of the infantry companies by train from St. Johnsbury, Newport, and other northern and western towns, several pieces of artillery from Fuller's Battalion of Brattleboro and the Third United States Regular Cavalry represented by G troop from Fort Ethan Allen. The rest of the period was spent in drills, parades, problems of battle to be solved, and this encampment was to have the first of a series of lectures in the evening on the care of the sick and wounded. There was the customary dress parade and review by the Governor, Urban A. Woodbury, and his staff. One of the most interesting military displays was the attack on an enemy presumably encamped on the hills behind the west side of Lake Morey and it is a fair assumption that the combined forces of the three branches of service in the guard were successful in their attack. It was during this spectacle that cannon located on the camp grounds were able to fire ball to targets set up on the Gilmore property, which is now occupied by tents of Camp Lanakila.

It was not to be all work for the members of the Guard, however, as the news reports state that the evenings were given over to minutes of a more convivial nature. There is evidence of much good fellowship between the campers and the members of the Lake Morey colony, with the result that the guard house was not lacking for its fair share of good natured, if slightly less than "regulation," soldiers. It was a gay spirit in the air. The townfolks welcomed the arrivals with a holiday zest, their more serious duties and drills were applauded and respected, their departure cast a temporary pall on the camp grounds and homes of the village, but it was a week long to be remembered and the vote of "the best muster ever" was unanimous.

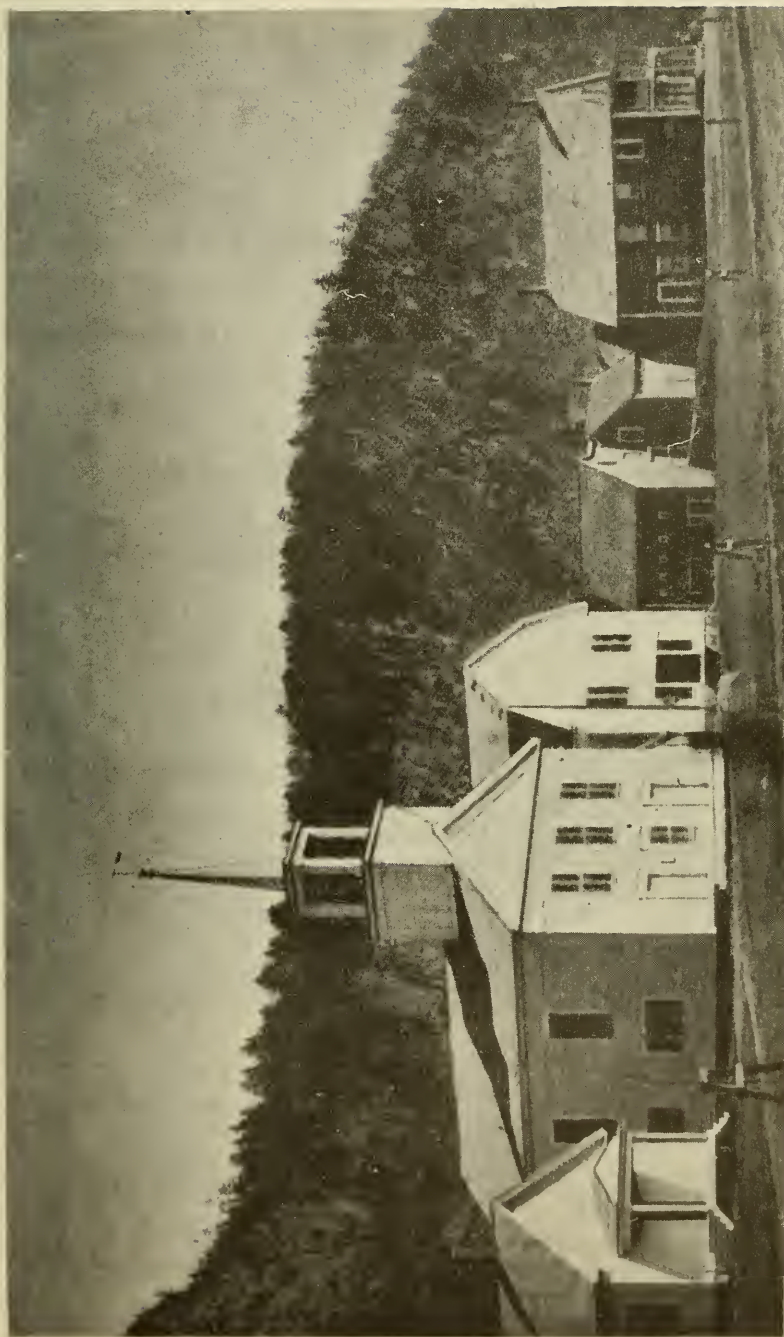
Church

A SYMBOL, perhaps, of early New England towns such as Fairlee was the part the church played in the daily lives of these pioneers and the fact its growth was parallel to the growth of the town itself. If we consider the part religion played in the general scheme of things in the mid-eighteenth century, maybe it will be easier to understand some of the difficulties faced by the early inhabitants in really getting their church established. It was not always steady, not always easy.

It is well known that many of the original settlers of this country had left Britain to be free of the oppression of the Church of England. When they reached these shores, however, freedom of thought and religious following was not always to be theirs; and many of the original travellers to Vermont from the towns of Connecticut knew this only too well. This, incidentally, was also one of the reasons for the early migration from lower New England to the Ohio country. It was still in many places a life subject to the rigid, stiff-necked preaching of Congregationalism. Reverend Nathan Perkins wrote in 1789, after a tour of Vermont, "not more than one-sixth part of ye families attend family prayer in ye whole State. About one-half would be glad to have ye Gospel & to support public worship & ye gospel Ministry. The rest would chuse to have no Sabbath no ministers—no religion—no heaven—no hell—no morality." It might be assumed, however, this condemnation was not too typical of all communities and probably spoken because of a wide and serious divergence of opinion as to the beliefs people should follow between Congregationalists and the other sects. The history of towns along the Connecticut Valley particularly show the strength of God was usually present and the basic religious tenor of the people was one thing that held them together in the midst of heart-breaking and back-breaking problems of settlement. The right and desire to worship was in their souls and the strong fibre of their character. The fact they had no regular minister as we know today, or

a regular place of meeting did not deter them from their goal. We are told the first band of settlers held their services of worship in the fields near the present home of Ray Godfrey. It was a common occurrence in these towns for the people to hold many meetings, have many and severe arguments, strain the bonds of friendship to the breaking point in their aim to arrive at the proper place for the Meeting House. This was not to be just a place to hold worship or conduct town affairs, but it was also the symbol of their freedom of thought and life and had to be in the proper place as they interpreted the ruling of the Bible to lead them. It was also quite customary to meet with other townsfolks, sometimes of Orford, sometimes of Bradford, to share in the hiring of a preacher, often on a week to week basis. So it was, not alone in Fairlee, that the building of the House took many years but never cancelled out the desire to worship. In the case of Fairlee, we find the religious activity closely tied to that of Orford and on December 28, 1779 a Proprietor's meeting voted two hundred pounds "for support of Gospel in Fairlee and Orford."

This was the initial step in a long road to the ultimate building of a house of worship, a road full of disagreements, lack of funds, and disappointing postponement of hopes. On March 1780 a further step was taken, however, with the levying of a tax of one penny per acre on the Proprietors "for the purpose of erecting a house of Publick Worship in said Fairlee, as near the center as may be, on the River Road, the tax to be equal to wheat at six shillings per bushel." The so called River Road was Main Street as we know it today and we can assume from the eventual location it was pretty much agreed from the start that the church would be in about its present location. Fairlee, however, was not to be free of the problems which beset all small towns in this project. We must realize that the erection of a house of worship was one of the most important of the tasks before these pioneers and every step was taken only after weeks, yes even months, of careful thought and many discussions. There was also the ever-present lack of real money to pay for the necessary materials and the means of raising funds then were meager. Besides the physical building was the problem of getting a resident preacher or of deciding if one was warranted. All of these factors took their toll and we find the town again meeting March 7, 1782, this time unquestionably in an air of disappointment to many and of questioning to others. The hopes of some for their own church must have been shattered, as on this day it was resolved to join Orford in the hiring of a minister for a three-year period. Still no building started. Would the day ever come? Another meeting on March 25th—less than three weeks later—always hoping, always looking for the realization of their dream. It was evident the people of Fairlee were not sufficiently ready to carry on the project themselves and they voted "to see if the Town will join Orford in preparing a house



LIBRARY - MEETING HOUSE - OPERA HOUSE - LIVERY STABLE - GENERAL STORE

for Publick Worship" on the condition each town was to pay an equal share of the expense.

Many were the calls to meeting to discuss the religious affairs of the town and it was not unusual to read the following public notice: "To see what the town will do respecting an agreement said to have been made by a Committee of this Town with the Town of Orford for the support of preaching.....Fairlee 23. April 1785 Nathaniel Niles Calvin Morse Selectmen. N. B. Tis hoped the time will be punctually attended."

Fairlee was to keep growing and with it the ever-present desire for its own place of worship. By 1797 there were well over three hundred people in town and on June 18, 1797 the definite step was made. The die was cast with a vote "that there be erected a house of Publick Worship of the following dimensions viz:— 54 feet long and 46 feet wide and 20 feet high upon the River Road on the ground belonging to Darius C. Morey and near his house." A committee was appointed to carry out the instructions of the town and "procure from Darius Morey four acres of land for that purpose." It is so easy to visualize the heartfelt thanks of these people, their long dreams at last reaching the point of fulfillment. Four days later, June 22nd, another meeting was held and voted to raise the money by "sale of Pews at Public Vendue.

It is regrettable we do not have the records of the sale of pews for the first building, but from history and later records of Fairlee the procedure is evident. Then, as unfortunately ever since, it has been the feeling of some that a place up front is more conducive to the proper spirit of worship than perhaps a seat in the rear of the Lord's House. It must also be said that many did have more worldly goods than others and consequently were able to contribute a larger share. A committee was usually chosen to evaluate the different pews and slips—single seats—according to location. The members of the congregation then bid a certain amount of "choice money" for their turn in bidding on a specific pew or slip. The final bid was to be paid in cash, materials, labor, or such produce as corn, wheat or rye at a fixed amount per bushel.

The start had been made, it is true, but it was still a long time before the building was done. Plans had to be changed as to size, this being a common complaint with all buildings, and months passed into years. That this was a stumbling block for all towns was evident by a law passed by the Vermont Legislature in October 1783, and which was unquestionably taken advantage of, whereby a town believed sufficiently able to build a meeting house or to settle a minister was allowed to levy a local tax if at least twenty-five of the legal voters so approved. A subsequent portion of this same law throws an interesting sidelight on the importance placed upon the practice of religious worship in the state in that it said if the location of the meeting

house could not be decided upon the question should be settled by the county court. This was a common dispute and all too often people did not vote for a location hoping to put off the actual building of the meeting house and thereby escape the tax that had been levied. The political powers at Westminster were too smart for such people, however; for to have his negative vote approved, the dissenting voter had to present a certificate from the minister of a different faith and in that way evidence that he was still a good worshipper, although in another sect. December 1808 saw the Town House accepted — December, the time of thankfulness and a new declaration of faith in the glory of God. What an appropriate time for this dream to be an actuality! The building was 35 feet wide, 45 feet long, and 22 feet high and was accepted with the proviso "any person wanting to build a cupola shall do so at his own expense." The final assessments were to be paid for in commodities as noted above or the rate of five cents on each dollar declared in the "lift" of June 1809. It was one floor with a broad aisle running through the center of the "audience room." On each side of this aisle were rows of long high straight-backed pews, each having a narrow entrance door; and on the outer sides of the room were box pews with seats on four sides to hold ten to twelve people in each pew. There was a wide, high gallery on the two sides and back, all facing a half round and very high pulpit which was reached by climbing twelve steps.

As is so often the case in building, we find the original estimates were too low and it was voted on January 24, 1809 to again have a sale of pews and slips or to sell the whole house to make up the deficiency "now due without making the Town accountable for any sum more than the tax voted for putting up said House." It appears from an account book of the "Proprietors of Fairlee Meeting or Town House" that the sale of pews was again held and the sum of \$1,382.00 was raised, \$35.00 short of the required amount. It is interesting to note that in some cases the same individual bought more than one pew, as we find Samuel Morey paying thirty-five dollars each for pew 12 and 13 on the middle aisle as well as twenty-one dollars for a gallery pew. That the sale was successful is evident as, when the report was made, there were unsold pews and slips for a total of four and unpaid bids of over forty-eight dollars.

The original pew holders of the first Meeting House is known from the account book of the "Proprietors of Fairlee Meeting House or Town House in account current with Committee for Tinning (Finishing) said House

Dr. to Pew No.	2	sold to	Th. Ormsbee	39
	3		S. B. Bissell	45
	4		N. W. Baldwin	40
	5		Peter Marston	40
	6		L. Woods	41

CHURCH - *Fairlee, Vermont*

7	L. Stockwell	35
8	E. Cook Jr.	40
9	D. L. Morey	60
10	Unsold	
11	Unsold	
12	Sam'l Morey	35
13	Sam'l Morey	35
14	L. W. Granger	47
15	Broughton	36
16	L. W. Granger	27
17	B. Follett	40
18	W. Brown	37
19	Woodward	37
20	M. Morey	44
21	S. Smith	44
22	Sol Bliss	46

 788

Slip

1	----	
2	G. Smith	29
3	S. Morey	28
4	B. Startton	30
5	N. Bissell	27
6	C. Hammond	20
7	S. Bliss Jr.	25
8	H. Butt	20
9	R. Towle	16
10	Unsold	
11	Unsold	
12	L. K. Dickinson	17
13	Goodale Coburn	24
14	S. B. Bissell	27
15	A. Hammond	29
16	D. L. Morey	24
17	S. Morey	24
18	J. B. Wheeler	25
19	S. Morey	30
20	S. Mann	30

 425

Gallery Pew

1	Lamb	25
2	Homer	15
3	David Bliss	20
4	Martin Smith	16
5	M. Morey	17
6	Unsold	

 93

Fairlee, Vermont - CHURCH

45

		1256
7	Unsold	
8	Unsold	
9	Unsold	
10	Unsold	
11	Sam'l Morey	21
12	Unsold	
13	Grant Smith	15
14	T. W. Churchill	14
15	Unsold	
16	J. Heath	8
17	J. Morrison	12
18	J. Pierce	26
		1382"

On the reverse side of the above account is written:

"Fairlee April 26th 1817

The committee appointed to settle with the committee appointed to finish the meeting house in Fairlee find that agreeable to the account exhibited to us by Committee that the sale of the pews amount to \$1382.00
the amount of expenditures 1422.00

deduct 40.00
5.00

leaving a balance due the committee 35.00

That there remains of the --- pews unsold (as follows)

Pews	No. 10	Gallery pews
	11	No. 2
Slips	10	6
	11	7
		8
		9
		10
		12
		15

\$ - due from Mr. Heath

14 due from T W Churchill

44 due from Capt Smith

all which is respectfully submitted

Solomon Bliss
Jesse Stoddard
Robert Gilman"

We shall see later how during all these years the membership of the church shifted and it was not until 1833 that we can really say the

church as we know it today formed its relatively permanent membership. The expense of the building was heavy on those who had to bear it and it was inevitable the Town be asked to take a more direct share in the expenses. In March 1848 the members voted "to see if the Town will alter over the meeting house or give the Pew owners liberty so as to have two rooms, one for worship, the other for use of the town and also to see if the Town will paint the outside of said house." Perhaps the members were too proud to give up their own, that for which they had struggled so long and so hard; in any event, the vote was not confirmed. Another try was made in July, but it was not until September 5 that the facts and figures were of sufficient weight to have the report accepted. It was then that approximately thirty members were told the necessary repairs included "underpinning, clapboarding, fixing the corners, and repairing the bell deck, painting, and fitting up town room" would amount to about \$430.00. This required careful consideration and planning and in November the vote was to do the work "not to exceed \$500." Still not satisfied, on September 26, 1849, the members felt a more permanent business organization should be formed to undertake the financial demands of the church and the Fairlee Meeting House Association was formed. This was a stock corporation with the express purpose of raising \$1,000.00, "unless less needed," to rebuild and repair the Meeting House. The shares sold for twenty dollars apiece and the following records are of interest.

Original Subscribers of stock in Fairlee Meeting House Association
June 26, 1849

Name	Shares	Amount
A. H. Gilmore	5	\$ 100.
George W. Cooke	2 ½	50.
Alex McLane	2 ½	50.
S. L. Granger	1 ½	30.
Dea. Wm. Child	2	40.
Jezediah Pierce Jr	2	40.
J. B. Bailey	2	40.
Geo. W. Brown	1	20.
Abel M. Rice	1	20.
Geo. A. Morey	1 ½	30.
P. L. Morrison	1	20.
Abel Curtis	1	20.
Josuah T. Morrison	1	20.
Josiah Shaw	½	10.
Silvester Shaffer	1	20.
Calvin Coburn	2	40.
Thos. Stratton	1 ½	30.
Benj. Celley	1	20.
David Morrison Jr.	1	20.

C. S. Waterman	1	20.
Dyer Waterman	2	40.
Edwin Fuller	1	20.
A. P. Waterman	1	20.
Stephen Hosford	1	20.
Stephen Chapman	2	40.
Josiah Joslin	1	20.
Joshua S. Pierce	1	20.
Silas Reed	1	20.

42 shares were sold, the remaining 8 shares were sold at a later date but the names do not appear in the church records.

The members of the Meeting House Association, although stock had been sold in the corporation, still had to bid for their respective seats and we are fortunate the records show the complete list of bids and appraisals on that occasion in 1849:

Bidder	No. Slip	Appraisal	Amt. bid or choice money
Geo. S. — L. P. Abbott	23	23	2
Wm. Abbott	35	23	2.50
A. M. Rice	36	23	1.90
Sylvester Shaffer	21	21	1.85
Jezediah Pierce Jr.	34	23	2.
Stephen Chapman	23	23	1.95
Jezediah Pierce Jr.	24	23	2.05
A. P. Waterman	29	22	1.90
Dyer Waterman	27	21	1.95
Darius Child	22	21	1.75
Dyer Waterman	25	21	1.80
J. B. Bailey — sold B. W. Davis	11	22	1.75
A. H. Gilmore — sold Hayes	3	21	1.80
A. H. Gilmore	4	21	1.50
A. H. Gilmore	28	21	1.45
J. B. Bailey	9	23	1.45
Eleph. Abbott (bot of Alex McLane)	30	22	1.30
Wm. Child	50	24	1.30
Benj. Celley	31	23.	1.05
Lyman Ware (bot McLane)	44	18	1.05
Zebediah Hyde	19	16	1.05
David Morrison	49	24	1.05
Bid off by David Freeman "given up afterwards"	45	17	1.
Geo. W. Cooke	7	23	1.05
Geo. W. Cooke	5	23	1.05
Geo. A. Morey — to Kibbey	8	23	1.05
Calvin S. Waterman	6	23	1.15
Stephen Hosford & Widow Barfield	20	16	1.

Henry Houghton & Widow Mower	14	21	.75
Calvin Coburn	10	23	.75
Josiah Joslin	26	21	.60
H. C. Driggs bot of McLane	12	22	.55
S. Jenkins & E. Corliss	43	18	.35
P. J. Morrison	1	20	.40
Thos. Stratton	32	23	.35
Calvin Coburn	46	17	.20
Silas Reed	42	19	.40
Phineas Bailey	41	19	.25
Edwin Fuller	40	20.50	.10
A. H. Gilmore	17	18	.05
Josiah Morrison	16	19.50	.05
A. H. Gilmore — Curtis	18	18.	.05
Stephen Chapman	37	20.50	.05
S. L. Granger	15	19.50	0
S. L. Granger	47	10.	0
S. K. Reed	48	10.	0
Joshua S. Pierce	39	20.50	0
Henry Ware	38	20.50	0

1025

48.35"

It seemed to be possible now to really undertake the major repairs necessary and to even provide more comfort for the parishioners. Vermont winters have always been cold and we must not forget that in the days we are now considering, while we are sitting in our thermostat-controlled and automatically heated homes, that our townsmen of a century ago trekked through heavy snows to an unheated church to partake of their Sunday worship. Mrs. Charles Oliver has told the writer how her grandmother, along with many others of the congregation, used to carry her own footwarmer to church to help in only a small way combat the rigors of winter. Certain of the old-time ministers preached sermons on the subject of physical warmth versus the proper attitude while listening to the preachings of the Gospel and we know that many congregations took very definite sides on the subject of the advisability of providing too much comfort for the members of the congregation. It appears, however, there was no such decisive split in the thinking of the Fairlee members, as on September 20, 1850 they voted "to see what measures the society will take to procure a stove and pipe for warming said house." That the stove was included in the final repairs is evidenced by a later solicitation for funds in December 1851 not only "to buy a book to keep records," for which forty-two cents was raised; but also "to buy three cords wood @ \$2.12 ½." We find the accounting of the repairs was for a total of \$1530.48 of which \$1170.00 was wood and sixty two cents " for removing old Chimney." With labor costs as they are today, it is certainly an understatement to

say a laborer was underpaid. These funds were again raised by the sale of slips, or right to bid, averaging \$20.50 for a total of \$1025.00, together with choice money of \$47.00, a Town donation of \$500.00 and a personal donation by Deacon Bliss of \$1.00. Probably for the first time in its financial history the church had an unspent balance of \$42.52.

At this time the general layout of the Meeting House was changed radically so that it became more accessible for both church and town use. The high pulpit and broad galleries were removed and a second floor was built at the gallery level. The first floor was then used for town affairs and the second floor by the Church. The re-dedication was held October 13, 1850 and five years later the Town voted "forever to pay one-third to keep the Town House repaired, other two-thirds to be paid by the Fairlee Meeting House Association."

The comforts of just the human body were not alone in the thoughts of the society members, however, as on December 14, 1852, with another spell of blustery winter on the way, we find the following record in the church books:—"chose a committee of three to inquire into the rights of individuals to erect sheds on any portion of the Common adjacent to their Meeting House and if on inquiry individuals are possessed of such rights—then to circulate a subscription that persons interested may subscribe for such amount of shed room as they may wish to pay for....." A year passed before any further action was taken as the next record of import is dated December 13, 1853 when a committee was formed "for the purpose of procuring ground for the location of sheds." It is regrettable no further record is found as to when the sheds were completed, but it is known they were built probably by 1855. In speaking of the horse sheds it is interesting to note that the title to these was the same as it might be to a man's own house. They were the property of himself and family and it was not uncommon for such a deed to be registered as that given W. H. Kibbey by George Hutton who, for twenty-three dollars bought the covering "being the fourth shed from the east end of line of sheds standing south of and near the church." The sheds were sold to the Town in March 1920 and are now used for storage purposes.

Someone has written that one of the most pleasing sounds to the ears of man is the tolling of a church bell as it rings over a small New England village, calling the devout to worship and saying in its clear tones that all is right in the world. It was unquestionably with this feeling in his heart and not too pleasant a ringing in his ears that Mr. William Celley in March 1892 addressed the Congregational and Methodist Society and offered the church a bell. In his offer Mr. Celley wrote "I trust it will not be many weeks ere the stillness of the Holy Sabbath will be broken, not alone by the frequent whistling of the passing train, but another sound more welcome to the God-fearing and God-loving citizens will fall upon the ear and echo

up and down the valley and over these mountains and hills." The bell was installed and dedicated in May of the same year.

The major upkeep of the church was not the only problem. The Bradford "Opinion" of June 2, 1899 carried a special announcement indicating the housekeepings chores were not alone for the home, "Persons owning pews and all interested in having a clean church are requested to meet at Union Church on Wednesday, June 7th at 9 o'clock AM to assist in thoroughly cleaning the audience room and vestibule. All owners or occupants of pews are requested to either clean them or pay 15 cents to the Ladies Society. Assistance from the gentlemen is especially solicited. Each person will please bring their own lunch." Cleanliness was next to Godliness! And so the physical structure of the Meeting House was maintained with no further improvement until May 1904 when twenty double pews replaced the old seating arrangement in the middle aisle. Electric lights were installed in 1910.

It was almost midnight on December 5, 1912 and the members of the Grange were about to wend their way home, all thinking of the festive days ahead or perhaps of a play to be given showing the spirit of Christmas and the sanctity of the Church. It was with horror they noticed flames breaking out from Mr. Stebbins' harness shop next door in the Opera House. Their first thought was the well-liked harness maker and his safety. Then the alarm of fire was given, but it was a losing fight—the fierceness of fire against only a few hand extinguishers. The flames spread too rapidly and, although aid was summoned from Orford and Bradford, in about two hours one of man's greatest enemies had taken its toll and destroyed the Opera House, Church, and Library. The plans of years with all the hopes, dreams, hours of fund raising, disagreements overcome for the common good, everything—destroyed in hours as the members stood by so helpless to save. It was not quite everything, however, as the will and determination to have a church was ever present and the next day plans were made for the future. A meeting was held on December 17th and it was voted to give the insurance money to the Federated Church as so few of the original subscribers of stock in the Fairlee Meeting House Association were left. Plans for the church as we know it today were drawn and on April 12, 1914 the first service was held in the new building. In a sense of rejoicing and thanksgiving, possibly, it was voted this same week to make all seats free, although it must be stated the old system of raising funds by selling pews still had a goodly share of supporters, the vote being 23 to 21. In 1926 the present bell and clock were presented to the church in memory of Mr. Walter Hodgson of Lake Morey by his wife; an organ was given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hall in 1938; and in 1950 a major change was completed by the gift of the Annie Donahue Memorial room by the late Mr. Robert Donahue. The pre-

sent music loudspeaker system given by the family of Mrs. Harriett Farnsworth Gulick was dedicated in February 1954 and in June was dedicated the lectern in memory of Mr. Charles Thurber.

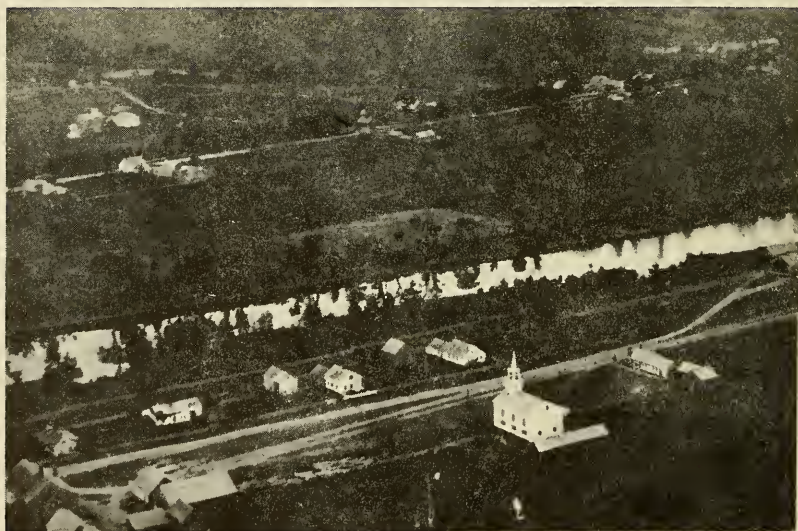
The Meeting House itself was not the only building problem that had to be faced as in 1909 when the Congregational and Methodist churches were united, it was also voted to have a resident minister and his welfare was of prime importance. At first the home of Mrs. Julia Merrill, until recently used as the telephone exchange, was rented for a very nominal fee. It was soon decided, however, a church-owned parsonage was needed and it was so voted November 9, 1909. That the assistance of everyone was anticipated is shown by a newspaper announcement of January 28, 1910 in stating that sixteen horses and teams were lined up at the mill in Lyme to get wood for the new building and when it was to be started about February 1st "Then everyone will have a chance to show their skill with the hammer and saw." It was apparently ready for occupancy by summer as the only further record found was it was "nearly finished" on May 13. It was located on Main Street where it stands today.

Thus we have seen the struggles and disappointments, the accomplishments and successes in building the House of the Lord. This was just one side of the picture, however, as perhaps the biggest difference to overcome was the personal one, this belief as to the teachings of God as against that belief, this opinion as to what preacher would serve best as against the votes for the other minister of the Gospel. We must bear in mind all the time in considering the early history of the Church in Fairlee that numbers were so few it was necessary to join usually Orford, sometimes Bradford or Thetford, in considering matters of religious teaching. No town alone before 1800 was able to financially meet the requirements of a minister for just its own needs and it was only natural that in their discussions they sought the best answer for their own town. Then there was the normal disagreement between the Congregationalists, of whom there were more, and the Universalists and Methodists. These differences were bound to slow down the wheels of decision and we find countless records in old town histories where it took meeting after meeting, month after month to decide what to us today might appear to be fairly simple questions. It is not that we take our obligations more lightly but that the founders of Fairlee, Orford and all the early New England towns realized they were laying the basic foundations of things to come for many years. They wanted to be so right and history seems to have borne out their decisions as being the just and right ones. In our Church and in our town we owe them so much!

As we have seen, Fairlee joined Orford in 1782 to hire a minister for three years. We will learn later of the character of some who served, but for now it is enough to say that due to the financial inability to pay a very steady stipend and because of the differences in



PRESENT FAIRLEE FEDERATED CHURCH and TOWN HALL



FIRST FAIRLEE MEETING HOUSE

belief, the change in ministers was almost constant. It is unfortunate that the Fairlee records are apparently lost, possibly burned in the fire of 1912, with respect to these early days. A good picture, however, is given in the history of the Orford Church prepared by the Reverend E. D. Harvey in which we see the ever-present problems: should a Congregationalist landowner pay the tax assessed to support a Presbyterian minister, should a non-believer in baptism vote for a minister who practiced that tenet, a split in the membership because of too severe discipline, of which we will hear more,—the time just seemed to be constantly beset with struggle. The first organization in Fairlee was formed on December 8, 1825 when the Congregational Society was started. This, of course, did not include all the church goers, as some still maintained their tie with Orford. It was evident, however, that the break would have to be made as Fairlee was growing and so was the discontent. Early in 1832 the Fairlee folks had a meeting and voted "whereas there being a Difrent course taken by the West Church of Orford in which we the following subscribers who live in Fairlee are members in said church, believing it is our indispensible duty to withdraw our connection from said church and form into a church where God has in His providence cast our lot that we may suport the Gospel and enjoy the ordinance in our own Town in full beliefe of this we humbly pray." The final break from Orford was then voted on December 13, 1832 when, "at a meeting of the West Church in Orford and Fairlee at the meeting house in Fairlee" it was declared "that the brethren of this church residing in Fairlee and any others who may wish to be with them, have liberty to be organized into a Congregational Church in Fairlee whenever they think it expedient." The necessary arrangements with the surrounding churches were completed and we are fortunate to have the complete record of the actual organization of the founding of the Congregational Church in Fairlee. The complete report is:

"Be it remembered that on the 28th. of February 1833 at Fairlee, Vermont by letters missive from the Church of Orford on the West side Connecticut river to the first church in Norwich, to the church in Thetford to the church in Post Mills and West Fairlee, to the church in Bradford, to the church in Corinth and to the church in Chelsea a council was convened at the house of Br. Robert Gilmore in said Fairlee to take into consideration the propriety of forming the said brethren into an independent church.

Present from the church in Norwich Rev. Samuel Godard Pastor John Lord Del. from Thetford Rev. E. J. Babcock Pastor and T. P. Bartholomew Del. Post Mills and West Fairlee Rev. D. Blodget Pastor, Asa Southworth De. Bradford Solomon Bliss and Naphtholi Shaw delegates Corinth Rev. Stillman Morgan Pastor.

Organizing by appointing Rev. Samuel Godard Moderator and Rev. D. Blodget scribe.

The Council was opened by prayer by the Moderator.

1st. Took into consideration the propriety of forming a church according to the request of the brethren, observing it unanimously.

2nd. Voted that it is expedient to form said brethren into a church.

Voted that the consecrating prayer be made by Rev. Mr. Godard.
Sermon by Rev. Mr. Morgan

Voted to adjourn to the meeting house

Voted that the council after having performed the forementioned services be dissolved.

After Public service proceeded to organize a church composed of the following named persons

Peter Houghton	Robert Gilmore
Nancy Houghton	May Gilmore
Joshua Heath	Joshua Swift
Sally Boyington	Martha Swift
Prudence Boyington	James Morrison
Nancy Goodell	Martha Morrison
Rhoda Palmer	Sarah Marston
Ebenezar Cook	Ebenezar Cook Jr.
Sarah Houghton	Martha H. Cook
May Woodward	Betsy Granger
Eliza S. Gilson	Joshua Cook
Benj. Sabin	Abigail Cook
Betsy W. Sabin	May Cook
Grant Smith	Elizabeth Harlow
Rebecca Smith	Sarah Blood
Jane H. Gilmore	Maholer Brown
	Lucretia Fuller

The Council called to order and the brethren chose Joshua Swift Moderator and Grant Smith Clerk

Dissolved the meeting.

The above is a true copy of the original record

Grant Smith Clerk Protem

Fairlee, Vt. Feb. 28, 1833"

And so it was the local church must now stand on its own, those who had followed the same teachings of Congregationalism and believed this to be the most democratic type of religion had taken their leave from their fellow believers or those of diverse beliefs in Orford to face the problem which would arise as a united group to the welfare of themselves and their town; the step first started when, in 1825, they had voluntarily associated "to agree to, form a society by the name of the Congregational Society in Fairlee for the purpose of hiring and supporting a minister and procuring preaching according to the first section of an act entitled 'an act for the support of the gospel' passed Oct. 26th, 1797." Moulton Morey, Moderator.

Such was the growth of the church as we know it today but with particular reference to the physical plant and the part the Congregationalists played. Although this belief was predominant in Fairlee, as in all of New England, there also existed in these early years smaller groups who followed the tenets of the Methodist and Universalist churches. From information left by Mr. Perley Mason we are able to learn that in 1828 a school teacher in the Thetford district organized a society of Methodists and the next year they formed their own church under the preaching of a Mr. Chamberlin. He guided his flock of twelve for two years and was followed by many who became very learned and respected in their church, including a Reverend Mallory who officiated in 1860 and was the only colored minister to serve in town. The membership grew steadily and in 1870 had reached over seventy. As we have seen, however, the difference in the details of their religion did not necessarily withhold their desires to help in the common cause of establishing a meeting house for all in the village. On occasion, due to the inability to keep a minister for a long term, the various societies all shared the expense and we find a report of February 15, 1842 for a meeting "to divide the minister's money." The shares were to be: 61 Methodists—\$12.378, 36 Congregationalists—\$7.317, and 26 Universalists—\$5.284 for a total of \$24.999. How the fractions of pennies were to be paid is not divulged but we note that three weeks later, March 7, there was not only a change in amounts but in the particular society to which the people claimed allegiance. It may have been politics or just a change of heart, we will never know. The later report shows 49 Methodists—\$9.56, 47 Congregationalists—\$9.17, 27 Universalists—\$5.26 for a total of \$23.99. In any event, these societies continued until March 27, 1909 when it was agreed by both the Congregational Society and the Methodist Society to form the Federated Church as we know it today. In later years some discussion seems to have developed as to this union of members, but on April 14, 1947 the Federation was again approved and exists today.

Mention has been made above of the Universalist group. Unfortunately no records have been found of their activity and in the division of the minister's money in 1859 no mention of this group is made so that we must assume sometime in the middle of the century their separate being went out of existence. This would appear to be borne out by the church record of a meeting January 29, 1859 as follows: "We the undersigned Committees of the Methodist and Congregational societies in Fairlee, wishing to perpetuate the union and friendship of our people and remove all, as far as possible, that has the opposite tendency, we do hereby agree to have the public money arising from the lease of the Minister lots divided, giving one half of the amount to each of our societies hereafter so long as there shall remain but two organized societies for the support of preaching the gospel in

this town.

Geo. McIndoe, Perley Mason, Waterman
 Methodist
 Edwin Fuller, S. P. Coburn, Wm. H. Kibbey
 Congregational"

Although they did not serve their own townfolk, two of Fairlee's sons were educated in the ministry and were ordained by the Congregational Church: Aurelius S. Swift 1808—1890 and John W. Churchill 1839—1900.

We have seen that although the people of town were of one mind as to the ultimate building of a meeting house and proper place to carry on religious activities of Fairlee, they did have very strong beliefs as to which were the correct teachings to follow. Unfortunately, it was the cause of much ill feeling between neighbors and many important decisions had to be postponed until more amicable agreements could be reached. It was probably most pronounced by the Reverend Nathaniel Perkins of Connecticut who traveled through Vermont decrying the members of other than the Congregational Society as "disbelievers." The cry was also taken up locally by the respected Grant Smith who in 1834 made claim against one Lucretia Fuller as she had "for a long time neglected to attend church for the purpose of Religious worship although often requested, and further that she has departed from the faith which we believe to be founded on the Word of God and that she has united herself with a sect called Universalists, whose system is a delusion, and not founded on the Word of God." That every attempt was made to bring her back into the fold was evidenced as a year later she was still found to be guilty and the members voted "to cut her off from the rolls."

Not too much is known of the early ministers of the Fairlee church and of those in the past few years and it seems best to let our own memories of their work serve as to their place in history. Of the early days, however, we do know quite a lot of the general conditions which had to be faced and the type of person who was to guide the religious thoughts and acts of that day. Our history books tell us of the dynamic, strong-willed and often narrowminded clergyman who presided in the pulpits of early New England. Reverend Nathaniel Perkins discoursed at length on the evils and sins among the settlers he found in the northern country and it may have been this same cleric who said "Hebron is the stronghold of Satan for its people mightily oppose the work of the Lord, being more fond of earth than Heaven." It is true many of Fairlee's early settlers came from the neighborhood of Hebron, but it is hard to believe such townsmen as Israel Morey, Samuel Smith, Joshua Heath and others could be considered as followers of Satan. They were men of strong minds and convictions, it is true, but their aim was always to build for the good of their fellowmen and with this idea so entrenched in their

souls, they wanted the finest and best leader they could obtain to guide their religious lives.

Until 1833 when the Fairlee Congregational Society was formed the people had joined with the town of Orford in their religious work. For short periods of time we know they united with Bradford and Thetford but for the most part it was with their neighbors across the river and it seems fair to assume that the people of both towns passed on the merits of their minister although in the church records they are listed only as having served in Orford. We find in the first list of members of the First Church of Orford such Fairlee names as Benjamin Baldwin, William Marston, Israel Morey, and John Woodward. The first minister was probably Reverend Obadiah Noble who served from 1771 to 1777. Not too much is known of his pastorate but he was considered a good teacher of his flock, becoming a property owner in town and apparently resigning because of some personal difference with a church member. The next name to appear for any length of time was Reverend Daniel Gould who, on April 28, 1794, was employed "for six Sabbaths" and again for a similar term on July 11th. This short-term employment, as we would call it today, was for two reasons: the church members wanted to be sure their minister was the right type of teacher and leader, and also the question of being able to maintain financial support of the pulpit was an ever-present and burning problem. We know a Reverend John Sawyer, who served sometime in this period, was to be paid 240 bushels of wheat with an annual increase of eight bushels for ten years. Hard money was scarce and, although Reverend Gould was voted 45 pounds of hard money when he was asked to settle permanently, the records show he brought suit against Fairlee in 1795 to collect. It is interesting to note that Israel Morey and Samuel Smith were appointed to defend the action for the town and their investigation showed part of the good minister's bill was for rum. The final settlement is not known. The first minister for the Fairlee church was Reverend Sylvester Dana. He had been in Orford for many years and was beloved by his Vermont neighbors. At the time the Fairlee church was established, 1833, the Orford church was undergoing reorganization and Mr. Dana was dismissed. About this same time, the Methodists had hired Reverend Francis Hoyt who was to become Presiding Elder of the Grafton, New Hampshire district. His successor, incidentally, was a Reverend James Campbell who enjoyed a far-flung reputation for his memory of the Scriptures. And so it went, each appointee doing his job the best he could, leaving his mark in some small way on the ever-growing church and its members.

As near as can be determined, the following men served the Methodist followers until the church union in 1909:

1829 ----- Chamberlin

1832 Dan Young

1834 ----- Medford

Francis Hoyt

1834	James Campbell	1854	J. G. Dow
1838	Haynes Johnson	1855	Charles Cushing
	Silas Quimby		Francis Hemenway
	Elisha Adams		R. M. Manley
1840	William Mann	1858	Amassa G. Barton
	Moses Spencer	1860	----- Mallory
	Joseph Clark	1861	Amassa G. Barton
	Russell Clark	1864	W. E. McAlister
	J. G. Dow	1865	E. S. Haynes
	Dennis Wells	1868	J. C. Sherborn
	G. Cowan	1868 - 1877	Haynes Cushing
	----- Fletcher	1881 - 1884	T. P. Frost
	Elisha Brown	1884 - 1887	R. L. Bruce
	G. T. Bullard	1887 - 1890	A. J. Hough
	Percy Mason	1891 - 1895	L. P. Tucker
1850	Lewis Fish	1896 - 1899	A. E. Lewis
1851	Dennis Wells	1899 - 1903	A. H. Webb
1852	Haynes Johnson	1905 - 1908	A. E. Legg

Those of the Congregational faith were:

July 1833 - December 1833	Nathaniel Lambert
1834 -	Sylvester Dana
1838 -	Stillman Morgan
1839 - 1844	Stephen Morse
1845 - 1849	Daniel Campbell
1850 - 1851	Andrew B. Foster
1851 - 1852	George W. Campbell
1852 - 1856	Joseph Marsh
1856 - 1858	Increase Davis
1858- -1861	Enos Merrill
1862 - 1866	Isaac Hosford
1866 - 1872	Silas McKeen
1873 -	Joel Mann
1876 - 1878	James Aiken
1878 - 1881	Josiah Closson
1881 - 1884	Allen Clark
1884 - 1885	George Foss
1885 - 1895	John Lees
1896 - 1899	Henry Barnard
1899 - 1907	Henry Kilbourn
1907 - 1909	Jean E. Heath

At the time of the merger of the Congregational and Methodist churches Mr. Heath agreed to remain temporarily and from June until November 1909 the service was covered by him and Mr. L. D. Somers. From that time on, the following men have been called to lead the religious life of the town:

C. C. Parker (M)	November 1909 - July 1910
David L. Kibbee (C)	August 1910 - November 1912
P. A. Fish	December 1912 - April 1913
A. B. Jopson (C)	May 1913 - November 1913
E. W. Sharp	1914
A. H. Webb (M)	May 1914 - May 1918
Clinton Carvell (C)	May 1918 - January 1921
E. L. M. Barnes (M)	May 1921 - May 1925
Herbert Kelton (C)	May 1925 - May 1935

Charles Atkins (C)	January 1936 - December 1944
J. J. Hutchinson (C)	April 1945 - September 1948
R. L. Krout (C)	October 1948 - May 1951
T. J. Hutchinson (M)	May 1951 - December 1952
Hugh P. Holland (C)	December 1952 - September 1956
E. A. Vonderheide (M)	November 1956 - to present

Schools

ONE OF the foremost problems, and expenses, of any town is and has been the proper education of its children. With this becoming a bigger part of the annual budget for probably every town and hamlet in the country today, it is particularly interesting to trace the growth of education since its inception in Fairlee. That education was to be a town obligation was recognized in the original grant by Governor Wentworth in 1761, when "one share," presumably two hundred and fifty acres, was to be marked out "for the benefits of a School in said town." It was further recognized in the Constitution of 1777 which provided: "A School or schools shall be established in each town by the Legislature, for the convenient instruction of Youth, with such Salaries to the masters, paid by each town, making proper Use of School-lands in each town, thereby to enable them to instruct Youth at low Prices." Even more directly, the Vermont Legislature passed a law on October 22, 1782 providing for division of towns into school districts to provide proper and ample educational facilities. Exactly how this was done at first we do not know, except a sometime school official left the following report in discussing the early school district: "in order to determine the number of children in any district count the number of families, deduct one-quarter to eliminate aged couples and those newly married, multiply the remainder by 12 and you have the number of children in the district." The first step taken by Fairlee in establishing its system was in the Town Meeting of March 25, 1782 when thirty pounds were raised to keep a school. That was approximately one hundred and fifty dollars; the expense for the school year ending June 1956 was over twenty-one thousand dollars. However, between these two figures and one hundred and seventy-four years, much has changed!

With no records available covering these very early years, many questions must go unanswered, some can only be guessed at as to how and where things were done. We do know the parents of the

children were interested in their offspring learning only the essentials of basic reading, writing, and arithmetic. In the latter subject, for example, all the problems involved matters which would be of actual use in their day to day living, cost of goods, labor expenses, etc. In 1827 a report was found suggesting the type of books which could be used with propriety. They were the Franklin Primer, Worcester's Primer, Marshall's Speller and the New Testament, but with the particular precaution it should be used without notes or comments. Another list included Morse's Geography and Noah Webster's American Spelling Book.

Another reason that only the essentials could be taught was the term of school. We must remember that travel was hard in the Spring months and the need of an extra pair of hands on the farm, even though small, was of vital importance. There were no truant officers or state laws requiring so many days of school per year for many years to come. Consequently, the average term for all the children was about nine weeks starting in the late fall; and in summer only those too young to help on the farm and quite often the girls were in school for about two months. The requirements were for all children from four to eighteen, but the requirements of the home and farm usually were the guiding factor after a child was ten or eleven and big enough to help.

Where the first school in Fairlee was we do not know. It seems fair to assume, however, it was in the north end of town with probably a second school in the Brushwood section. These were the two sections that had the larger farms and we know at a later date the Brushwood school was the biggest, eventually to be closed when that section became almost entirely unpopulated. That the buildings were not too impressive is evident. In 1846 the State superintendent reported of the Orange County schools that as a whole they were in "uninteresting and unsuitable spots" with the further comment in many cases they were next to a hog yard, the buildings were poor with no blackboards and the "obstacles to progress of our schools are too numerous to receive merited attention." It is hoped these remarks did not apply to Fairlee, but it does show the point from which many developments and much progress has been possible. It is much pleasanter to think of the early school as the one room log cabin with its rows of benches graduated in height to accommodate the short and the tall. Unquestionably the teacher's desk was at the front of the room near the door. The blackboards were finely smoothed planks painted black and erasers were mere blocks of wood with a covering of lamb's wool. Pencils were too expensive to use soon after their invention and it was probably not until 1825 that the quill pen and lead plummets were discarded as the usual writing equipment.

Fairlee continued its growth rapidly the first part of the nineteenth century. By 1820 there were 1143 inhabitants and although this was



CENTER SCHOOL — 1901-1956

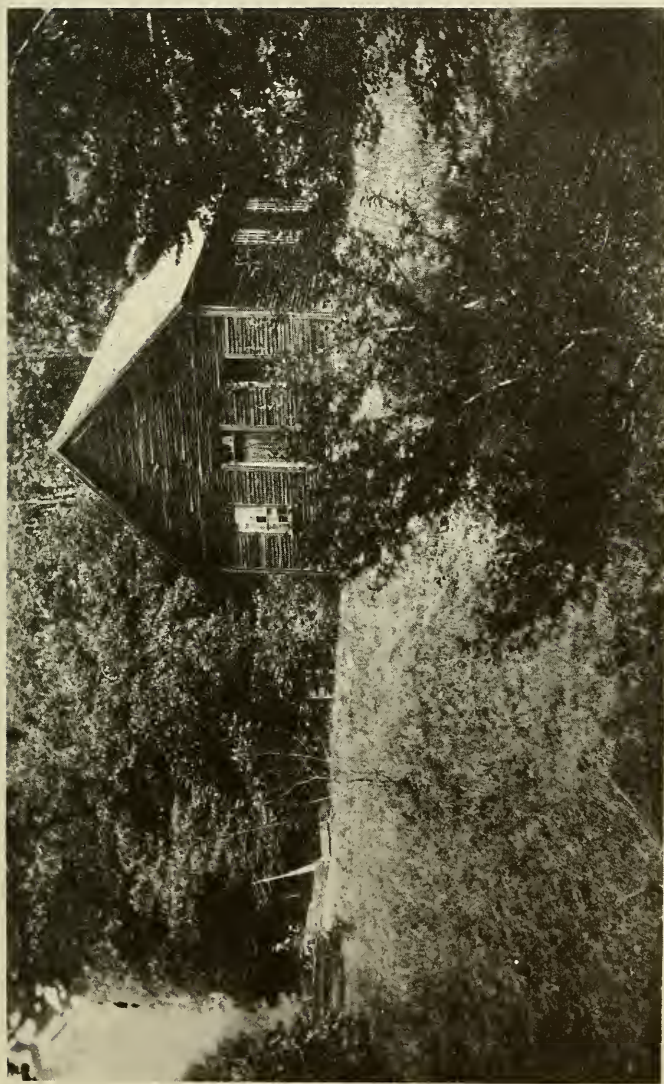


MAIN STREET SCHOOL — later TELEPHONE OFFICE

to drop almost half in the next twenty years, at first the school districts had to increase. The first report we find was in 1841 when it was voted to add the sixth district and we can, therefore, fairly assume that in the previous twenty years very substantial expansion had taken place, although alterations had to be made, as we know in 1826 district 5 had been made a part of district 4, combining the area around the present Ely station and running westerly toward Lake Fairlee and northerly on the back country and easterly to approximately the middle of town to the river. In 1844 another school was to be added and at this time a definite outline of the districts was made a part of the public records: district one was bounded south by the south line of one hundred acre lot number eleven, west by West Fairlee, north by Bradford, east by east line of range ten to lot thirteen on the west line of the range; district two was bounded on the north by Bradford, west by district one, east by the river, and south by land of Messrs. Waterman, Calef, and Freeman; district three was limited on the north by district two, east by the river, south by south line and the lands of the late Samuel Morey, west by the east line of range ten; district four on the north by district three, east by the river, south and west by lands of Jezediah Pierce and by the south and west lines of land owned by late Samuel Morey by the south and west of land owned by and Chapman and by the west line of Range 10 and south line of lot 9; district five on the north by districts four and one, east by the river, south by the lands of Messrs. Cook, Gilmore and Childs; district six was bounded on the north by district five, east by the river, south by the Thetford line, and west by the west line of the Abbott land; district seven south by Thetford, west by West Fairlee, north by districts one and five, and east by districts five and six; and district eight was comprised of the land and tenants of John McLane. That the plan was simple is evident, the districts largely followed the course of the river and main highway where the great part of the people lived except for the Brushwood area. However, they were ever changing and we find in 1849 district eight was combined with five when the area around the McLane farm was joined to that part of the town owned by the Childs family, just north of the center today. This same year the so called "Kidder land" was made part of district three only to be returned to district two a year later which was at the north end of town, thus showing the change in families and their school needs. This was to mark the high point in the number of educational facilities in town as from this time forward, the districts were to be consolidated until the present one school was erected. The first decline was naturally, as it seems perhaps today, in the north end of the village and the Brushwood section. In 1875 districts 4 and 5 were united. By 1894 there were only two districts, district four in the Ely and South Fairlee section and what might be termed the center school in district six. The north end had joined with Bradford and there was only one pupil

left in the Brushwood section. The next year, 1895, showed an attendance from what had been the large farms in the Lake Morey section of only nine pupils and in the center school there were thirty "when they all attended."

The moving about of pupils was not the only problem. As it is today, the upkeep of the buildings always seemed to represent an expense that had to be faced and we can easily visualize the town fathers hard at work trying to figure the proper ways and means to protect the school property and still do what was the most economical. By 1890 the town had changed to a town system of school control although denied in 1885 by vote of 49-3. The first superintendent was Mr. Thomas Stratton. This made it possible to more directly control, among other things, the financial requirements, as from about 1842 the tax for school purposes had become a separate item in the town budget. We may think that Federal aid for schools is a relatively new invention of our national government. This is not true, as in 1836 the Federal government had a surplus which was voted to be used by the various states as aid to their school programs. The total share for Vermont was over a half million dollars and each town was allotted its share, which could be loaned by the towns to responsible people and the interest used for school expense. In 1842 the laws were changed to permit the towns to allot the money directly, but for some reason unexplained in the public records Fairlee did not ever take advantage of these funds. Consequently for all expenses they had to rely on direct taxation. We know the first school houses were of very simple and not too lasting construction and apparently by 1892 their general condition was of sorry plight as Myron Smith, then Superintendent of Schools, commented "we give our farms and business interests the best care and equipments possible, we should do equally well by our school interests." The next year a value was placed on all the schools which indeed clearly indicates there had not been any excess spent on sumptuous buildings. The value of the Brushwood school was twenty-five dollars, as was that one on the West Fairlee road; the north end school, shared with Bradford, had a total value for both towns of three hundred dollars, Fairlee's share being one hundred and eighty-four dollars and thirty-six cents; the Center school, as we have called it, was two hundred and fifty dollars; and the Lake Morey school, which today still stands and is part of Mr. Avery's property, had a value of seventy-five dollars. This same year a comment in the school report, which Superintendent Paine felt had to be explained, was an expense of five dollars for having a man build fires during the winter term of eight weeks because there was "no boy big enough to build fires." As the pupil requirement shifted in certain districts the problem came up whether to build a school or buy a share from an adjoining town. About 1875 the requirements around Ely station had fallen off and eventually that district was



LAKE MOREY SCHOOL

discontinued. However, by 1894 a school was again felt necessary and it was voted to buy a share in the Ely school from Thetford for \$33.33. This was not to meet the growth and in December 1895 a new school was built to cost \$600.36 for the twenty pupils who attended. At the other extreme, this same year saw the final closing of the Brushwood school, as that district had become "so isolated" and the six pupils remaining were transported to the Center school on the main road. As we read of the struggles, financial and pupil load, that the school authorities had fifty and seventy-five years ago it causes some bit of amazement that the huge amounts and problems faced today are ever solved!

So much can be gleaned from the town reports about the schools and their problems that it seems worthy to consider these sources closely around the turn of the century. It was a period of uncertain growths, shifting population in the various sections of the village, the question of school costs, the type of teachers available—so many problems that make it appear to be a time such as we know now when all angles of the school problem in our towns and cities demand so much thought upon the part of the voters and taxpayers to know what is best to be done. In the school year 1890, for example, there was no school in the Brushwood district, "a part of the scholars have received instruction in an adjoining town (Bradford), but unfortunately most have had none.

The McIndoe school was reopened after a period of three and a half years as the pupils had "increased sufficiently to warrant the maintenance of a school. It sustains its former quiet, uneventful record." The only other school was the Center school which carried the heaviest teaching load. Such was the report of the superintendent Mrs. Carrie Smith.

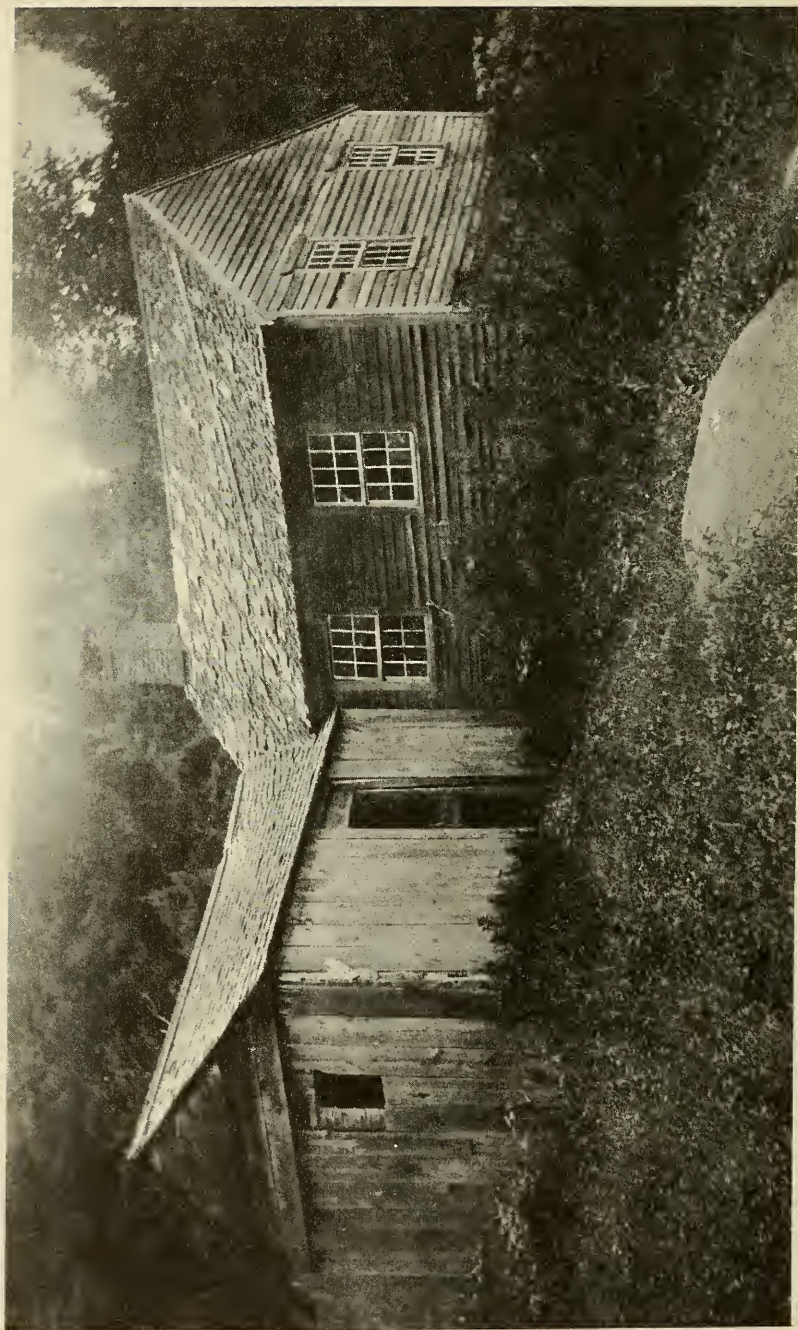
That deportment was somewhat of a problem is noted the following year by Myron Smith. His report was of considerable concern when he advised the town "half the pupils attended to their studies, or tried to do so, while the others were restless, inattentive, mischievous or positively malicious in conduct." This seems to have been a recurring problem as we note a comment of similar sound from Arthur Paine as superintendent in 1894. Mr. Paine was beloved by all his townsmen and his interest in the ultimate welfare of children was never questioned. He was, however, a strong believer in the use of the rod upon occasion and his sense of justice was fair but severe; and, although he often realized that some of the laxities in deportment were perhaps due to rather inferior teachers, he was prompt to defend the methods of discipline used if fairness was considered first. These similar traits were shown by his wife, Lillian Paine, who taught for several terms at the Lake Morey school.

With no compulsory attendance laws and no truant officers, children all too often did not attend school regularly. This, with the shift-

ing population, especially in the Brushwood section, saw the schools open some terms, closed others. Much has been done, both from a legal standpoint and from the view of incentive to attend school over the past several years, so that today no such report as given by Mrs. Carrie Smith, superintendent, would be warranted. In 1896 she reported to the Town that very few in the Brushwood had gone to any school, a few into Bradford; the old McIndoe School had been opened for the first time in over three years; and in the center school, the town's largest, attendance was normal, but the furniture was "unfit in all respects." It is some times hard to visualize today, with modern buildings, equipment, and courses of study, the physical and mental obstacles both those who wanted to give and those who wanted to receive in the field of education were willing to overcome and still achieve their end so successfully. The lessons were hard but they were thorough, and we feel sure all must have benefitted, both pupils and teachers.

It was during Mr. Paine's administration that Fairlee was to get her outstanding teachers of this period who are known to us now. The first was Charles Thurber who came in the Fall term 1894, and deportment in his classes was to show much improvement; and in 1899 Mrs. Rosalene Ordway started at the old McIndoe school, replacing Ada McIndoe. Mrs. Ordway and Mr. Thurber were to leave the benefits of their abilities and understanding deeply impressed in the minds of their pupils for many years; Mr. Thurber succeeding Mr. Paine as superintendent in late 1900 and Mrs. Ordway continuing her teaching tasks until 1914. It was also during Mr. Paine's term that the discussion for one central school house was really started. With the outlying districts representing a heavy and expensive problem from the standpoint of transportation and lack of sufficient pupils for a separate school, it was by 1890 pretty well defined that any children from Brushwood and the north end of town would go to Bradford. This left the biggest share for the central school and one on the West Fairlee road. In 1895 this latter school was built new at a cost of \$600.36, equipped, the builder being Barzie Adams who received \$450.00 and the old schoolhouse. Then in 1899 Mr. Paine advised that with a potential of 37 pupils, the central school should be split into grades and have two teachers, with a room added.

Consequently in 1901 at the regular March Town Meeting it was voted to build a new two-story building with the school on the first floor and the second floor was to be used as Town Hall. Final approval was given in a special meeting April tenth, but it is evident the discussion was vigorously carried on after the folks had returned to their homes and more carefully still considered the vote. On the twenty-seventh the vote of \$3,500.00 was rescinded in a special meeting and the whole discussion postponed until May fourteenth. At that time \$1,500.00 was appropriated for a one-story building to have two rooms with space for thirty pupils in each room. Over the course of the next



BRUSHWOOD SCHOOL



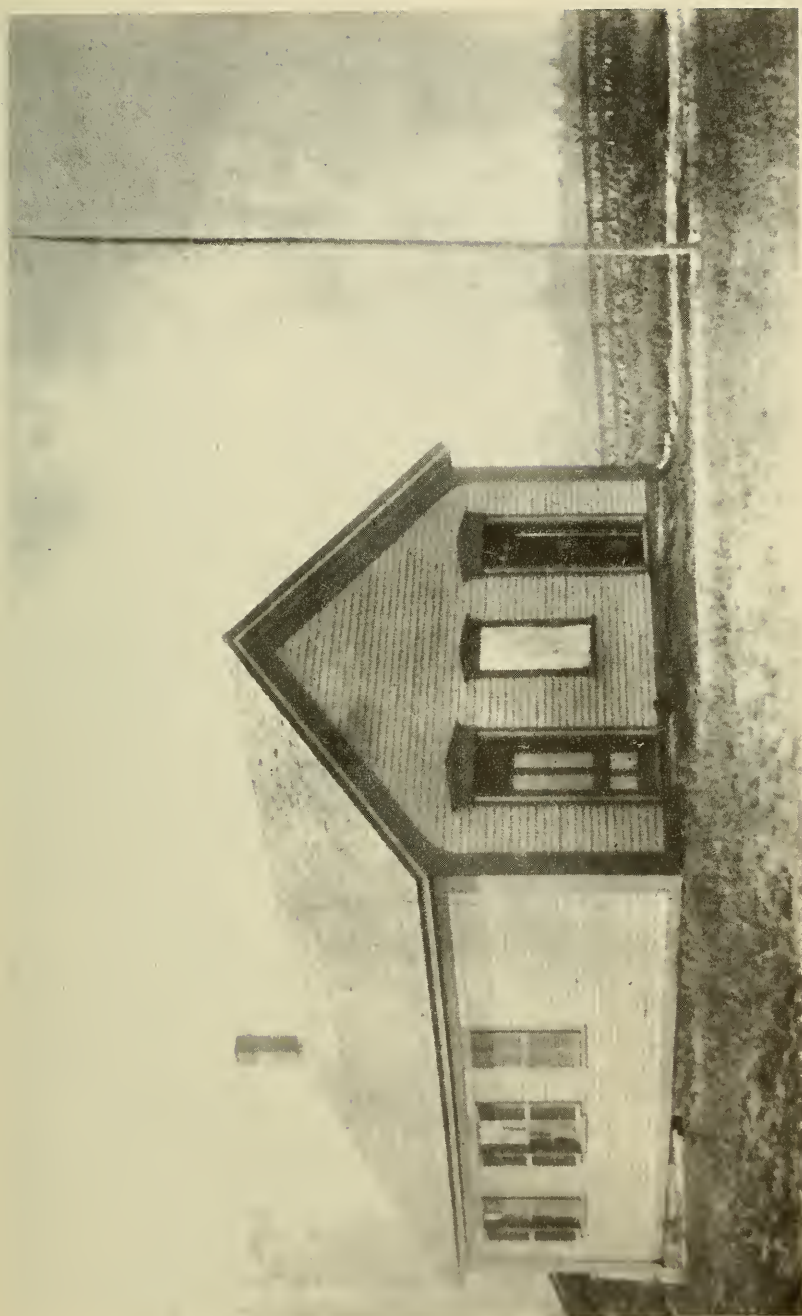
SCHOOL DISTRICTS — CIRCA 1880

few years, however, the new school was to prove inadequate; and during the school year of 1913-1914 the attic of the building was converted to a large room for the grammar grades, a teacher's room and cloak room. At the same time the present basement was excavated and the building was as it has been known until the addition voted in a special Town Meeting in June 1953 was added. With respect to the building of the then new school it is interesting to note the costs involved, when today this item is probably one of the biggest problems facing the taxpayers in every city and town in our land, regardless of how large or how small. According to the Town Report, the land for the present school cost fifty dollars. This had to be surveyed at an expense of one dollar and fifty cents. The actual building costs were: house \$1,374.46, cellar—later to be enlarged—\$71.50, furnace \$115.00, seats and furnishings \$103.84. This was a total expense of \$1,664.80 with a credit of fifty dollars for the sale of the old school, or a net cost of \$1,614.80. You will recall the original authorization was \$1,500.00. Would that our present-day builders could come as close!

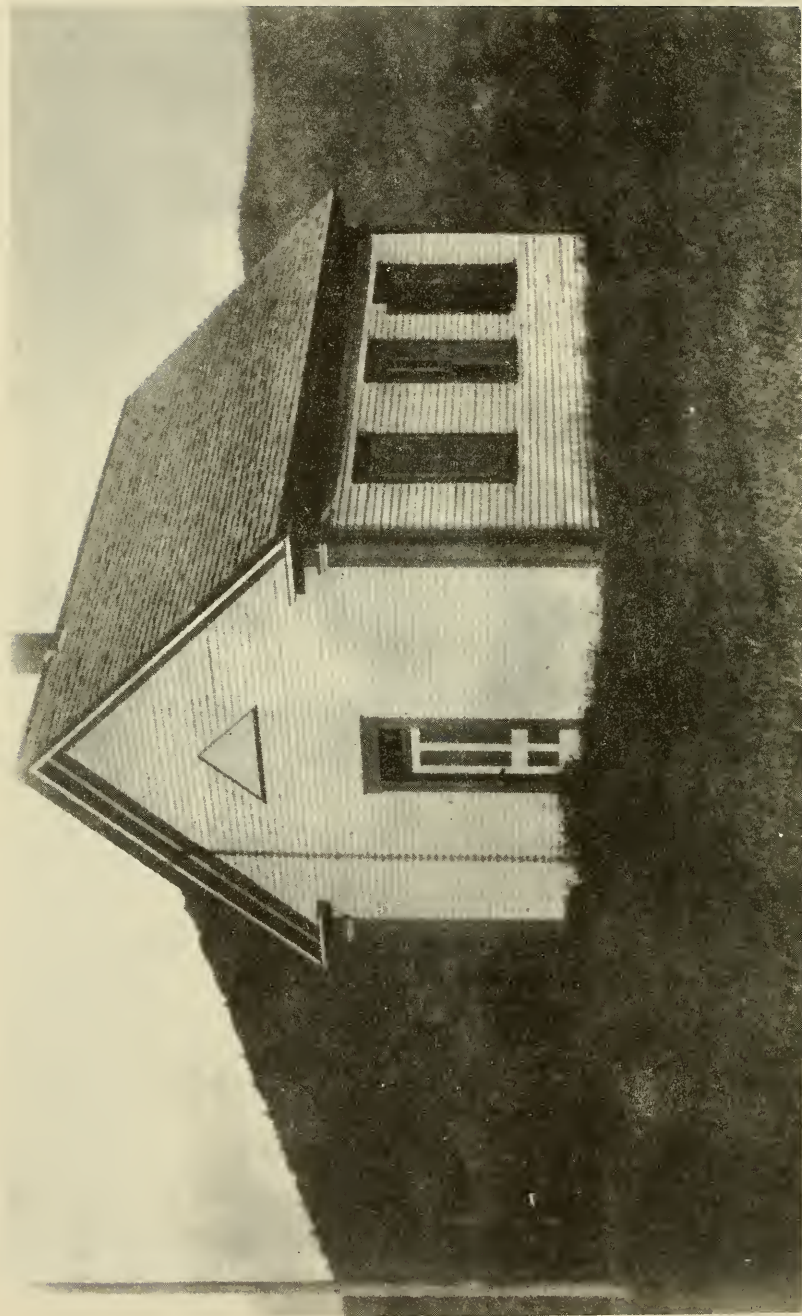
By 1954 it was evident that some expansion in the school plant was essential to properly provide for the continued growth in school attendance. At the regular Town Meeting a proposal to add two rooms to the Center school at an estimated cost of \$38,000.00 was defeated 85-52. The general feeling of the opposition seemed to be that a new building should be erected at a location further removed from the busy state highway. Much thought and hard work by the School Board resulted in the request for \$65,000.00 for a completely new and modern school on the so-called Sargent property, which request was approved by a vote of 86-46 at the Town Meeting in March 1956. The new building was ready for the opening of school in September 1956, simple, modern, efficient—a fitting place for the scholastic training of Fairlee's children today and for many years to come. The old building was sold at public auction and at present (1957) is unused.

Such were the provisions for the elementary education of the children. For those who have gone on to High School, it has been necessary to attend either the school in Orford or Bradford Academy. It is a matter of the individual's choice, the town paying a yearly tuition-fee, but for the past several years practically all have gone to Bradford and that is now generally considered the natural point from which the young men and women of Fairlee graduate to the business world or to the realms of higher education. No matter which, the ground work has been sound and they take their places of responsibility with serious minds and intent upon doing the future job well and with pride.

With the consolidation of the pupils in the new school (1902) it is of interest to note what became of the old buildings which had served their purpose well but without fanfare. The "old number three," or McIndoe school, was moved into the center of town in 1907 and



OLD CENTER SCHOOL

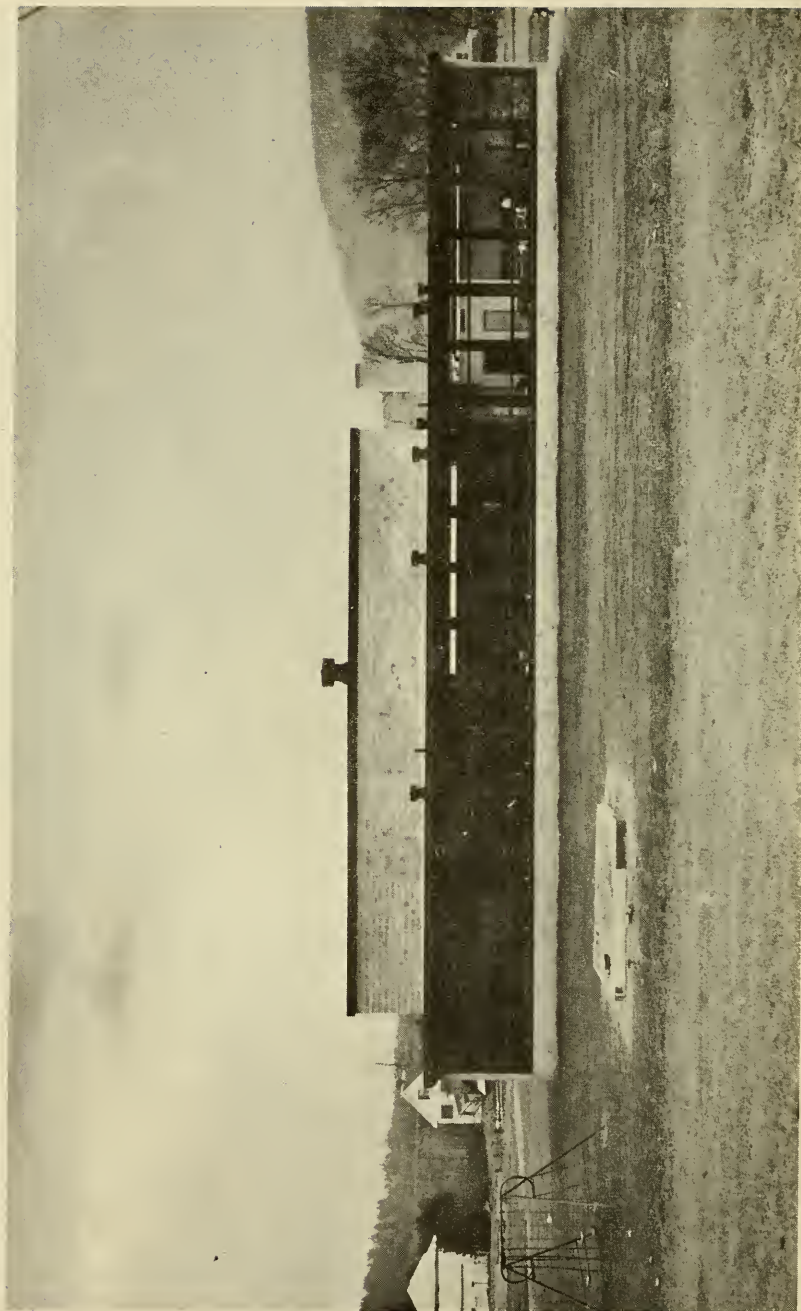


McINDOE SCHOOL

became the first library building. It had been a building with many happy memories for Miss Ada McIndoe and Mrs. Selden George as teachers, and for Selah George who was to have the subcontract for moving it into town. The whole job had been let out to "Allie" Adams, but he had hired Selah George and a neighbor to actually move the building. As Mr. George told the writer "my neighbor's hosses mighta been a mite thin" as compared to his four horses which were big and strong, but they got the job done although in coming up the grade on the south side of the cemetery the house shifted as "neighbor's" horses could not pull on even terms. Their efforts were to be rewarded, however, as the old school was to house a different type of educational facilities for five years, only to be burned in the big fire of 1912. The same fate was not to be shared by the Brushwood school, but one worse. It was to be forgotten and left to fall into shambles at some uncertain date. It was finally destroyed by fire in 1907. The West Fairlee school too was neglected until now it is practically non-existent. The south school, originally located just south of Charles Oliver's, fared much better, being bought and later becoming the present home of Mrs. Warren Ordway, a teacher of fond memory and today an astute antique dealer on Lower Main Street. The old center school was sold in 1902, later became the telephone office and is now the White family home at the corner of the Lake Morey Road and Main Street. The Lake Morey school was eventually part of the Davis farm and in 1915 was sold to Dr. Page, now being part of the Bonnie Oaks property across from "Gardenside."

With the passage of years the course of study and other services the schools of today must perform have undergone considerable changes. A forerunner of what was to come may have been evident in a school report of 1867: "too much confined to textbook answers according to the book, know nothing of lessons. Deplorable ignorance—showing a deficiency somewhere either in parent, scholar, or teacher—probably in all three." The apparent difference in approach, at least, is shown in a report of the Superintendent in 1940 who wrote: "early colonial laws relating to education provided that children should be taught to read. Nothing which has been added since has been intended to interfere with this basic aim of schools." From whichever viewpoint you want to start, progress has been very marked and Fairlee today can be proud of the teachers, the program given the children, and the future. As time has passed new courses have been added, such as music, social studies, and other courses prescribed for a general sound education in the first eight grades. In 1933 the school became classified as a Superior school, the highest rank given by the State Board of Education, obtained after years of hard, conscientious work by the teachers and the local boards of education.

The above improvement has been made largely possible by a more carefully trained corps of teachers. This is not in any way to take



FAIRLEE SCHOOL — BUILT 1956

from the earnestness, ability, and loving conscientiousness shown by the teachers of the past. It is not the writer's place to editorialize, but few will ever forget the devotions aroused between pupils and their teachers of old! The early teacher the country over was too many times just a few years older than his pupils and his education of not any really higher degree. It was not until 1927 a teacher was required to have one year of post high school training. In 1931 the State required two years of normal school and in 1937 this was raised to four years of graduate work after a high school education. The first examinations for a teacher were given by the local superintendent of schools and we find a report by George A. Morey with respect to one Mr. Southworth who was examined in 1849 and "is found qualified to instruct in Reading, Writing, Geography, Arithmetic and English Grammar, and satisfactory evidence being given that he sustains a good moral character he is hereby Licensed to teach school in the Town of Fairlee for the term of one year." That these satisfactory examinations may not have always been borne out in actual teaching is perhaps shown by a report of Mr. Arthur Paine, a kindly but vigorously conscientious superintendent of schools in 1899 when he wrote: "a fall term of 9 weeks was taught by Mr. A. B. Fulton of Bradford, who was not such a teacher as this school needs; in the matter of activity and energy required for this school he seemed to be just a little bit behind the times; in his methods of discipline and school management he seemed to be just a little bit behind the times; in his methods of teaching he seemed to be just a little bit behind the times; and in fact he seemed to be just a little bit behind the times all around, for the necessities of the school." The town has not, however, always had teachers who have been "just a little bit behind the times," and much credit is due to such as Mrs. Lillian Paine, Miss Minnie Heath, Miss Lizzie Martin, Mrs. Warren Ordway, Mrs. Selden George, Mr. Charles Thurber, Mrs. William Chapman, Mrs. Joseph Kiely and many others including the present staff.

It is not the choice of this writer to become involved in the general question of teachers' salaries which today represents a major factor. That the salaries have for years been too low is generally conceded and that has always been a strong argument with reference to the type of teacher possible. As it is now, so it was a hundred years ago, and especially when the salary of the teacher had to be paid by assessment on each family depending upon the number of their children attending school. In the very early days of the Fairlee school system, as in other towns generally, the pay was partly in the form of board and room. At times the teacher would move from house to house, and upon occasion the families would bid for the care of teacher and the lowest bidder would get the job. This was so until about the middle of the century when the general practice was to make a board allowance and the teacher would find his own lodgings and board. A

glance at various periods over the years will show, however, that at no time can the teaching profession be considered a highly remunerative one and the Town reports of the last few years are all too clear pieces of evidence that such is still the case. In 1893 we know the pay was four dollars a week with an allowance of two dollars weekly for board. Five years later this was to be raised to the starting sum of seven dollars a week. In 1919 Fairlee was able to receive some State aid and the salary was to be increased three dollars, with further increases to be made as time and taxes permitted; although as late as 1946 the Town Report quotes the superintendent in saying the two reasons for not being able to get better teachers were low salaries and poor boarding accommodations. It can only be hoped that the years to come will properly compensate these worthy servants of the people.

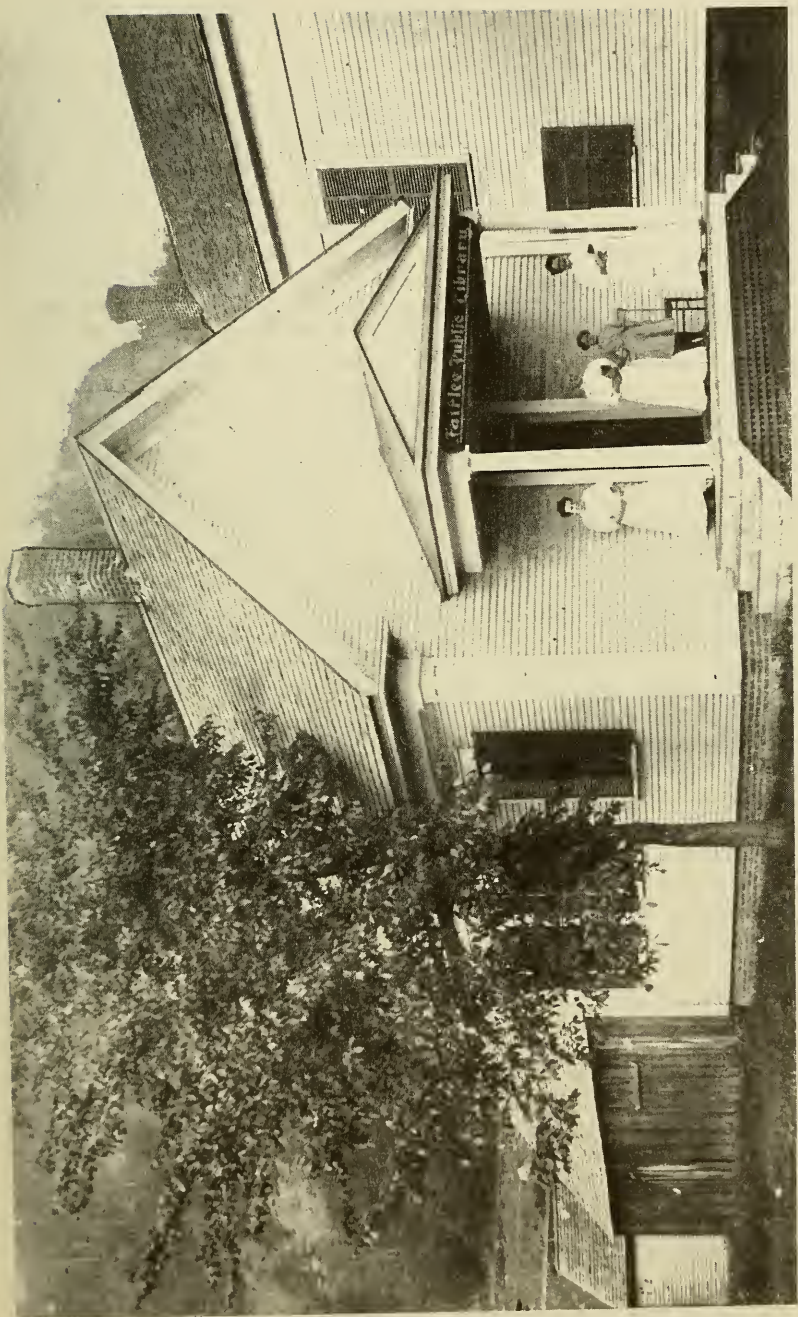
It is also interesting to note the way in which the cost per pupil varied between the different schools, due to the cost of transportation largely where it was not always possible to have the schools as handy to the children as might have been desired. In 1895 there were thirty pupils in the so called center school where the children lived quite near by the school and the average cost was \$10.24 per pupil. It rose sharply, however, in the West Fairlee school and the district covering the north end of the Lake region where the average cost was about \$17.70. By 1900, due to a further concentration of load, the cost had been reduced to \$13.10 per pupil for the three schools then existing. Today, for salaries alone, the cost is about \$90.00 per pupil. The children must be educated, the problems must be solved, and it must be a solution entered upon with the full thinking of the teachers, trustees, and parents all working toward the best answer to a most perplexing question.

But enough of finances for awhile! Were the children of fifty and more years ago little saints or devils in their classroom work? We have read that all the teachers were not of sufficient caliber to maintain proper order in their schools and the chalked circle under the watchful eye of teacher was drawn on the floor of the earliest school-room for the disobedient, or shall we say over-energetic, sprite of the day to "stand in floor." No doubt some of the masters ruled with an iron hand and an ever-present rod, but many were able to maintain discipline in much more kindly fashion for which they will ever be blessed. That there were all kinds of pupils then as now is evidenced in Superintendent Smith's report of 1892; "half of the pupils attended to their studies, or tried to do so, while the others were restless, inattentive, mischievous or positively malicious in conduct." More favorably impressed, however, was Superintendent Paine five years later when, after inspecting the south end school, he reported not a single mark against any pupil for the fall term," the like of which we have no recollection of finding upon any school register

during a service of seventeen years." This is the same school which Selah George remembers as the one some years before where "they had no respect for lady teacher." As the years have progressed, however, it is evident the children have perhaps taken on a more serious aspect toward their work and why they are in school and the report of the school board in 1947 would indicate that all will be well and we can lay our confidence in the children of today, the men and women of tomorrow, when they wrote: "Have you visited the Fairlee school recently? We believe you will enjoy the friendly spirit of cooperation you will find. Notice how well the different groups work together, and how the progress of the children, as individuals, is something in which all take pride. Notice that there is a growing ability, from grade to grade, to work without constant direction from the teacher and that each child, with few exceptions, acts as if he had a definite purpose in every task."

Library

THE IMPORTANCE of the Fairlee Public Library in the daily life of the town has increased annually since its inception September 28, 1898. That the work of a library was to be a needed part of a normal community life was recognized by the State of Vermont in 1894 when the legislature passed a law establishing a Library Commission and granted the right to the various towns to establish their own libraries and work with the state in this civic and educational project. Fairlee was not to take advantage of this for a few years, however, as the request to support a library was rejected in the Town Meeting of 1895 as being a needless expense at that time. The advocates of the cause were to be persistent and in 1898 the town allotted the sum of fifteen dollars to maintain a free public library. Please note this was for full maintenance, not just for the purchase of books. Mr. Herbert Warren was to become the first library commissioner. The total number of books was unquestionably few—103 from the State and 79 from individuals—the interest limited; but it was a seed that in a few years was to bloom into a very big tree in the forest of public activities. By 1902, not quite five years later, the library was to have 362 volumes on its shelves and had loaned out during the previous year 461 volumes. What did the people read? The average home library was confined to the Bible, an Almanac, and perhaps a few stories of adventure or scientific interest. For a book of a lighter vein, the people turned to the library and the list of books bought or given in 1901 shows the novel, or escape reading, in predominance. Among others bought were "He Fell in Love With His Wife" by E. P. Roe. "In The Palace Of The King" by F. Marion Crawford, "The Right Of Way" by Gilbert Parker and one of more serious vein by an author of greater fame in years to come, "Crisis" by Winston Churchill. It is also interesting to find that during this same year two books were presented by the Anti-Saloon League entitled "Ten Nights In The Bar Room" and "Black Rock."



LIBRARY

Growth was to continue and by 1907 it was felt necessary to have the library in its own building. In 1895 the town had been asked to approve a hall to hold the library and the school but this had been rejected. However, the need for improved facilities was too evident in the ensuing years and by 1907 a step had to be taken. This was somewhat due also to the fact that Mrs. Abbott was unable to continue her library duties and also assist in her husband's drugstore. There was some consideration given to converting the Opera House into a joint library and Town Hall, but fortunately at this same time another move was found possible whereby the library could have its own quarters. As we have noted in the section of this history dealing with the schools, the fluctuation in locations of the school pupils often made certain school houses unusable. Such was the case in 1907 when the old McIndoe School on upper Main Street beyond the cemetery had become useless for school purposes. But why should its use in the educational development of the town be abandoned entirely? Not at all, and in a special meeting held in April 1907, it was voted to move the school to the site of the hearse house and use it for the library. September 6, 1907 was a day long to be remembered by the friends of the Fairlee Public Library. On that day Allie Adams, Selah George and others hitched their teams and moved the old school to its new site. There it was to stand, next to the Church and the Opera House, but its future was limited to only a few growing years, as on the night of December 5, 1912 it was totally destroyed by a sometimes uncontrollable enemy of man, devastating fire. For two years it was kept in Mr. Albee's home, south of Mr. Thurber's store. Then in 1914, it was moved to the ground floor of the Town Hall where it is today.

With a general increase in the desire for knowledge which people seem to have had for the last several years, it is quite natural that the services of the library have grown. The report of 1948 is quite informative in this respect and we find in that year the circulation increased 25 percent over the previous year for a total of 6500 books and in 1955 was almost 9000, having 5876 books on hand. There are probably two basic reasons for this continued growth. The first, and of the more importance, is the close working of the library and the school departments. A substantial part of the purchase funds for new books are devoted to children's books. In this part of the program the school and library have worked closely together, but it was given an added impetus with the cooperation of the R. H. Macy Company of New York. It was the feeling of this store that books should be properly presented as to what was available and, consequently, they arranged a display of new and standard books which represented the best in the publishing field. Their experiment, as that is what it was, was so satisfactory it was later referred to as "The Fairlee Experiment" and publicity of it went around the world in newspapers and on the "Voice of America" program. The other reason for the growth of

the library has been the active interest taken in it by the summer residents. This has not simply been in the realm of circulation, but many have given several gifts of books to the ever bulging shelves, for the benefit and entertainment of all. This constant increase in use of the library was bound to resolve itself into the problem of further expansion. Consequently, in the fall of 1953 a Library Advisory Committee was appointed to study the entire situation. At the regular Town Meeting of March 1954 it was voted to appropriate one thousand dollars contingent on the raising of a like amount by private subscription to erect an addition at the south end of the existing library room. This was quickly done and the present quarters were ready for use in the fall. Today Fairlee has a library of which it can be justly proud no matter the form of yardstick that might be used.

Physical growth is oftentimes possible, however, without much personal attention or a guiding hand. This has not been the case with the Fairlee library. Through the years it has been directed not only by a board of trustees whose interest was sincere, but has also been fortunate in its choice of librarians. It is to these hard-working and diligent women that we must give the credit for the place the library now holds in the life of the community. Theirs has been largely a labor of love, desire to help one and all, particularly the school children, and for which the returns have been largely the thought of a job well done. The first librarian was known as a true friend to all, Mrs. B. W. Abbott. Her interest in the town and its welfare was paramount and she had an intense interest in the children. The ideas she planted in the early days of the library have proved their worth and her work was to be a solid foundation for those who were to follow to build and enlarge upon. She served the town from 1898 to 1908, when in November her place was taken by Mrs. F. J. Campbell. An increase in books loaned and interest was to be evident during Mrs. Campbell's stewardship, which lasted until 1920. In that year Mrs. Vien Denis took the helm and served the town unstintingly for a quarter of a century. The budget was increased to some extent, school programs developed with the library, and this became a period of decided growth and value. With regrets, Mrs. Denis was forced to give up the position she had so nobly held and in 1945 the present librarian, Mrs. Bernice Titus, took her familiar place at the head librarian's desk. Under her guidance the growth has continued on its way, serving until recently under very cramped conditions. Along with Mrs. Titus must be mentioned Mr. Herbert Warren, son of the first library commissioner, and Mrs. R. DeWitt Mallary who have given many thoughtful hours to help in making the library the place of merit it now holds in the minds of its users, both summer vacationers and year-around residents. The future of this institution, started under not too auspicious conditions, is bright, thanks to the unswerving loyalty to their job of its librarians and Boards of Trustees.

Transportation

AS WE stand in the middle of Fairlee Main Street today, it is not always easy to remember that until forty years or so ago this was a dirt road with the sand and mud above one's ankles and travel a chore in certain months. It is even harder to visualize, as a modern one hundred and sixty horse power motor car goes gliding along U. S. 5 or Lloyd Bugbee's Model A Ford comes to a coughing stop at the Post Office, that the early settlers of this town made their first trips along the same road by oxcart or on horseback when it was merely a path through the woods along the river's edge. Today, as we make the trip from middle Connecticut in less than five hours, or travel on a streamlined Pullman, let us for the moment turn our minds back to the days when this same trip required almost ten days of hard, backbreaking travel through unmarked woods. Then the only roads were the military highways over which the soldiers had traveled north to meet and scout the Indians during the French and Indian Wars. But even then, the most direct "road" stopped at Charlestown, New Hampshire, which was the site of fort Number Four and the farthest point north with any real settlement. However, with the development of the Grants and growth of the various towns, the need for better roads was soon all too evident, whether it be to get to Thetford to borrow some tools, or to carry the grain to Charlestown to the mill. We find a record of a meeting August 3, 1776 at which the fifty-two Proprietors met and "voted that the sum of 257 pounds of lawful money be agreeably assessed on the Proprietors Rights in Fairlee being three pounds ten on each original right which is assessed as follows viz:—Six shillings lawful money on each meadow lot, six shillings on each house lot, and twenty shillings lawful money on each Hundred acre lot, it being for to defray the expense of allotting the Township for the purpose of cutting and clearing roads and other necessary expenses on said Township."

With the turn of the century and the growth of towns along the

Connecticut River it was quite common for the several towns to request approval of a turnpike. It will be remembered this was the time of hopes for the development of the river into a large commercial route, which dream was to be short-lived with the advance of the railroad and the inadequacies of the river as a waterway to the large markets. Unfortunately, the records of the Legislative discussions on these subjects leave much to conjecture; but we do find in October of 1811 and again 1813 the petition of Daniel Cook and others of Washington and Corinth for a market road from the Washington Turnpike through Corinth and Fairlee to the river. No further comment is found except a further petition in November 1815 for a road from Vershire to the river by way of Fairlee or Thetford. As no such turnpikes were approved, it must be assumed the requests were permitted to die in committee hearings.

Delays seemed to have been inevitable, although the urgency of quicker and easier communications between families increased, together with a certain forestalling of continued growth. That something must be done was sharply stated in the Town Meeting of January 4, 1780 when it was voted: "whereas the settlement and cultivation of the Township of Fairlee is greatly retarded by reason of there not being mills and convenient roads . . ." a tax was levied of seven pence per acre to raise four hundred pounds "to looking out, surveying and making passable two roads east and west through Township, another from south to north side of town through the 100 acre lots, and for repairing the river road." As we can see, therefore, the roads as laid out then were about as we know them today; the West Fairlee road to the south, in the north end of town the road now running from Mr. Newton George's house westerly over the Palisades to the north end of Lake Morey, and the main road known as Route Five. It is also interesting to note that the State took an active interest in the development of proper town roads. Money was scarce and so called State aid was not too prevalent. The desire to help was present but not the needed funds and in April 1781 the Legislature sought to raise money for the aid of building roads and bridges by means of a State lottery. This was voted down with the belief it "would make State tickets as plenty as continental money was in the heighth of its flood and they would possibly depreciate as fast." It was not only money troubles that besieged the road builders, but often irregular measurements and their resultant lawsuits and the problem became so great in some places that beginning in 1783 all roads had to be laid out by compass. That this happened in Fairlee is true as we find in later years, 1890, the back road to Bradford was held up for two years because of certain fence damages which were caused by incorrect measurements. A further step by the State in 1792 undoubtedly created some added hardship on property owners, but with an honest intention in mind, when it was declared that all taxes for road construc-

tion must be paid in money and no longer in labor.

As the years went by and the town spread out and became bigger, more roads had to be planned, although the original highways were to serve their purpose for a century, subject to sporadic repairs and seasonal difficulties through their dirt and mud. Toward the end of 1888 it was evident the Lake was to become a growing community and it was accessible only over a rough, uncleaned wagon path. Cows were allowed to graze in the grove and there was a gate which had to be opened to permit travel up the west side from beyond the present Rutledge Inn. Mr. Fred Bradford, who built first at the Lake in 1889, has told the writer with a gleam in his eye of bumping from stump to stump over this path with the ever-remembered 'Allie' Adams in his buckboard, where the stumps were hub high. Even with some of the holes in the road of more recent years causing our fine cars to jump around, we cannot envy the lack of comforts sixty years ago. However, growth can bring improvement and in 1889 it was voted to lay out the road on the west side of Lake Morey from the outlet in back of Bonny Vale to a point beyond the Aloha Camp, where Mr. G. L. Winship was to build his new cottage. As has been mentioned above, the back road to Bradford was planned in 1890 and finally accepted in 1892. About 1899, with the easterly side of the Lake becoming more built up, this road was started and was carried around the north end to make the circuit complete in 1903. As many of the land deeds on the eastern side refer to the Houghton Road, it may be mentioned this was a private road started in 1904 and it runs from the main road above the Saladino home southeasterly over Morey Mountain. Whether or not it was to have been another road to town or just a logging road is not definitely known. With the development of the houses in the "Pines," this road was surveyed in 1947 and in 1948 it was voted to connect it with the main highway.

Not only were roads in themselves necessary, but ease of travel also was to become important. Dust and mud was one thing, but there were apparently traffic hazards almost a hundred and fifty years ago. In 1808 we find the Town Fathers posting a notice on the board that horses, sheep, or swine shall not be allowed to run loose on the highways, such being subject to a fine of twenty cents for each horse and ten cents for each sheep or swine so found. Modern improvements, as we take them today as a matter of course, were not to come for another century and by the end of 1909 we are informed there were two street lamps on the main street, this electric service being extended to the Lake area in 1915. Even this was to be not enough, the cries of ladies against that infernal dust had been going on for years. In 1898 the Selectmen took official action and warned against riding bicycles and wanted the walks wider as "it is quite dusty for ladies to ride on main road." But time often cures all ills and in 1919 Fairlee was to become the first town in eastern Vermont to have the main road

hard topped. Apparently the basic problems have been corrected and today the only one seems to be keeping out of the way of the fast moving motor cars as they speed their course over the straight and macadamized main highway—a far, far cry from the winding and stump infested paths the first settlers had to trudge over day by weary day.

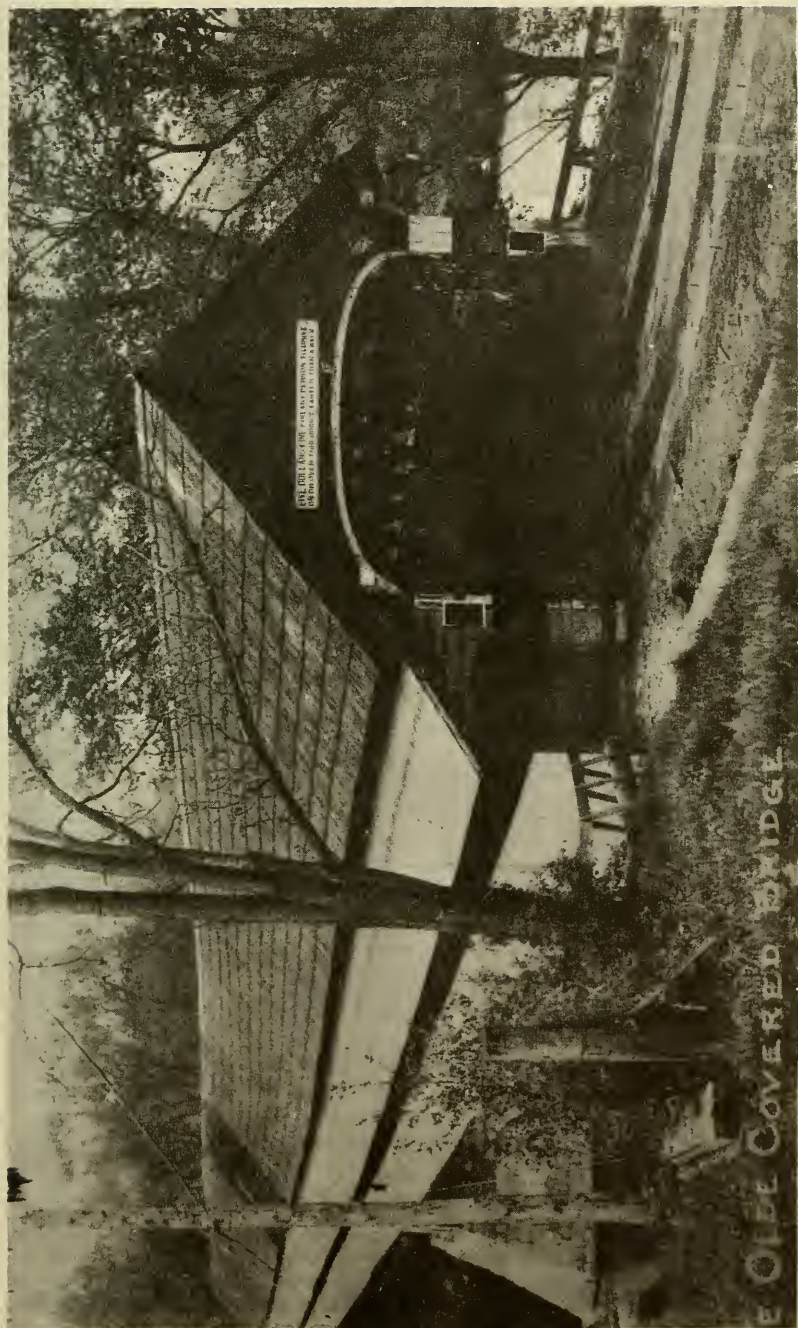
As we have seen, a good many of the activities of the Fairlee people were closely related to their neighbors across the river in Orford and other towns and the question of easy accessibility from each side of the Connecticut was an important one. There was not only the exchange of business, but the church activities and other social life involved. At first a bridge was not felt to be needed but it was believed the needs could be met by a ferry between the two towns. Such permission was in the hands of the Governor and Council of New Hampshire and on July 2, 1773 a petition was presented to this august body by William Simpson of Plymouth, New Hampshire in which he stated "your petitioner has been at great expense in transporting himself and family into the interior parts of the Province and humbly Prays to be encouraged by your Excellency and Honors in his endeavors to promote the benefits and interest of the settlements in those parts in particular....your Petitioner humbly conceives a Publick Ferry with a proper boat to transport the inhabitants of Orford and others travelling over the Connecticut River to the towns on the West side....shall strive to give the greatest Dispatch and Satisfaction....." The petition was granted, and on March 3, 1775 a deed was given to Israel Morey from William Simpson "in consideration of the sum of Ten Pounds lawful money....of keeping a Ferry, and of keeping, using and employing a Ferry Boat or Boats for the transporting of Men horses goods cattle, Carriages etc. across the Connecticut River in the Town of Orford aforesaid Beginning at the Landing place in said Orford and extending on the River—Two miles above and two miles below the same as said Connecticut River runs—which said Ferry with the appurtenances Priveleges Emoluments and Advantages thereof was given and granted to me by his Excellency John Wentworth Esq. Governor—."

Not too many facts are known about the ferry service, unfortunately, except that the first ferryman was Deacon Simeon Avery and he plied his trips across the river from the Orford landing to the Fairlee meadows near the outlet of Fairlee Pond, as Lake Morey was then known.

Although this means of transport was to serve its purpose well, it soon became evident a more accessible means was needed, not only for the people of that day but for those dreamers of the future who envisaged a healthy commercial life along the Connecticut and its resulting growth in the towns on the shores. This latter was not to be too fruitfully realized because, although river trade flourished in the 1820-1830 period—due somewhat to the advances in steam engines

made by Samuel Morey—it was found eventually to be a losing financial game. Of greater importance to us, however, was the basic reason for the need of easier access across the river, the then present daily requirements of the Fairlee and Orford people.

The records leading to the establishment of the Orford Bridge Company under the laws of New Hampshire are quite complete and, although the first permit was issued in 1794, final action was not taken until 1800 resulting in the first bridge across the river being opened in September 1802. As these records are quite interesting with respect to location and fee to be charged, it is felt warranted to quote them rather fully. Once again we find William Simpson being the motivating force behind this new convenience in the daily lives of Fairlee and Orford. The first act was approved January 29, 1794 and stated "Whereas William Simpson of Orford in the County of Grafton has represented to this Court that it will be of great utility to the public to have a Bridge erected over the River Connecticut at said Orford and has prayed for the exclusive privilege of erecting and supporting a Bridge over said River at the place aforesaid, which prayer appearing reasonable—Therefore—Be it enacted—That said William Simpson and such other persons as may hereafter associate with him for said purpose, their Heirs and assigns, shall be and hereby are declared a body politic and corporate forever for the purpose aforesaid, under the name of the Proprietors of Orford Bridge....And be it further enacted, that the said William Simpson Esq. shall warn the first meeting of said Proprietors by advertising the time and place of holding the same in the Newspaper printed at Hanover in said County of Grafton, three weeks successively fifteen days before the time of holding said meeting—and the Proprietors, by a vote of a majority of those present or represented....shall choose a Clerk....and this Act and all rules, bylaws, regulations and proceedings of the said Corporation shall be fairly and truly recorded in a book or books by the Clerk kept for that purpose....And be it further enacted that the Proprietors aforesaid their Heirs and assigns be and they are hereby permitted and allowed to erect a Bridge over Connecticut River and to have the exclusive privilege of keeping the same forever at any place between the northerly line of Piermont and the southerly line of said Orford, and the same to hold in fee simple forever—Provided nevertheless, That from thereafter the expiration of twenty years from the passing this Act....the inhabitants of Piermont should deem necessary that a Bridge should be built between the Northerly line and the Southerly line of said Piermont and if said Proprietors shall not within three years after notice build a Bridge and give Bond to the Selectmen thereof that said Bridge shall forever afterward be kept in good repair, which bond shall be given upon the penalty of the Privilege of building a Bridge at said Piermont reverting to the State; then this Act so far as it respects the grant within the limits of said Piermont shall be



YE OLDE COVERED BRIDGE

void.... In case the Proprietors do build said Bridge and give Bond as aforesaid within the term of three years....the same rates of toll shall be allowed them under the same regulations and restrictions as is herein after mentioned respecting the Bridge intended to be built within four years at Orford....And be it further enacted, that for the purpose of reimbursing the said Proprietors....and supporting said intended Bridge at said Orford, a Toll be and hereby is granted for the benefit of said Proprietors their Heirs and assigns according to the rates following, namely: for each foot passenger one cent, for each Horse and rider three cents, for each Horse and Chaise Chair or Sulkey ten cents, for each riding Sleigh drawn by one Horse three cents, for each riding Sleigh drawn by two Horses five cents, for each Coach Chariot Phaeton or Curricule twenty cents, for each Cart or other Carriage of burthen drawn by one beast of burden nine cents, for each Waggon Cart or other Carriage of burthen drawn by two beasts twelve cents, and if drawn by more than two beasts and not exceeding eight twenty cents, each Horse or neat beast exclusive of those rode on or in carriages two cents, for each Jack or mule two cents, for each Sheep or Swine one half a cent each, and to each team one person or more shall be allowed as a driver to pass free of toll—and at all times when the toll gatherer shall not attend his duty the Gate or Gates shall be left open—provided nevertheless that after twenty years from the passing this Act the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court may once in every five years thereafter regulate the rates of toll to be received by said Proprietors, provided always that the rates of toll shall never hereafter be set at less than two thirds of what is set in this Act. And be it further enacted that if the said Proprietors their Heirs and assigns shall fail for the space of four years from passing this Act to erect and complete the Bridge intended to be built at said Orford, then this Act shall be null and void.... And be it further enacted thaatt nothing in this Act contained shall effect the Grant or Grants of any ferry or ferrys in said Piermont."

Conditions of which we are not told made it impossible for the bridge to be built within the time allowed. The record shows, however, that the reasons were good and we find the New Hampshire Court under date of June 13, 1800 granting "a further time of three years---to build a Bridge at Orford....And be it further enacted that the said William Simpson and his associates be allowed eight years from the passing this Act to build a bridge over Connecticut River at Piermont."

Upon approval by the court, the first step forward was the formation of a company to carry on with the financing and construction of the project. The Orford Bridge Corporation was founded under date of January 1, 1801 with a right to issue twenty shares of stock at one hundred dollars a share. William Simpson was the major stockholder with two shares and other holders of one share each were A. G. Britton,

Noadiah Bissell, Edward Tudor, William S. Rogers, Jonathan Sawyer, Ichabod Sawyer, Jonathan French, Daniel Tillotson, Nathan Webster, Stephen Lombard, Samuel Smith, John Mann, Simon B. Bissell, Elisha Thayer, Calvin Morse, with Messrs. Tillotson, Noadiah Bissell and Jonathan Sawyer each subscribing to a second share later to complete the issue. These were all men of note and in the forefront of civic enterprise in the towns of Fairlee and Orford. It is fortunate that the complete records of this corporation are available for our perusal and study in the New Hampshire State Library. These records further show that at the first meeting of the company share holders at the home of Daniel Freeman in February 1800, William Simpson was named president. No bridge was built but at this same time it also appeared warranted to specify that the tollkeeper should settle his accounts on a weekly basis or be subject to a fine of six dollars if he should so fail for a period of three weeks. It was not until November of that year that we find a definite reference to the building of the bridge. At that time it was specified "all the long strings or 80 foot sticks to be used about the building said Bridge Shall be 18 inches square in the middle in the horizontal width 18 Inches when it meets the extremity of the String brace and not less than 12 Inches square at each cord." At this same meeting Abidiah Britton was appointed agent to superintend the construction. It appears apparent that the subscribers to the stock in some cases had found it difficult to raise their share in actual cash, as later in November it was voted that each could pay the first twenty-five dollars on each share subscribed to in timber "provided the same on as good terms as may be had from other persons." The fact you were to be a stockholder was not to permit any deviation in the financial or structural standards set up.

The actual construction of the bridge seems to have started as soon as weather permitted in 1802 and in August we find a vote "that there be erected for the security of the bridge three heaters so called one on each of the three posts that are in the current." Additional financing was needed, as was so often the case, it being further voted that each share pay twenty dollars to pay the expense of the heaters, stonework, and the road leading to the bridge. This could be paid in labor at the rate of eight cents an hour, with a further allowance of six cents for an oxen and four cents for a cart.

By October the bridge was practically ready to be opened and although the actual date is not recorded, on October 7, 1802 a charge of two dollars and ten cents was laid against each share for the actual dedication, which would indicate the actual opening date was probably within a few days of that time. The final details had been completed, including the provision people from Fairlee, West Fairlee, and Orford could pass free of toll when going to and from meeting on the Sabbath, and this further link in the chain of friendship and commerce between the two sides of the river was cast.

This bridge was to serve for about fifty years. During the interim it became apparent that convenience was not the sole guiding factor in its use. Some were inclined to make the river crossing at Orford where the rates were less than at other points and John Mann with his fellow Proprietors appeared before the Court and prayed for an increase, having "suffered much inconvenience on account of the Toll—not being equalized and in conformity—" His plea was granted and by decree the following rates were established: "for each foot passenger one cent, for each horse and rider six cents, for each Horse and Chaise, Sulkey or Chair twelve and a half cents, for each Sled or Wagon drawn by one horse six cents, drawn by two beasts twelve and one half cents....drawn by three beasts eighteen cents....drawn by four beasts twenty five cents....all over four beasts three cents each, for each Coach, Carriage, chariot, Phaeton, or other four wheeled carriage for passengers twenty five cents, for each horse, jack, mule, or neat beast exclusive of those rode on or in Carriages two cents each, for each sheep or swine one half cent each, to each team one person allowed to pass free of toll." The possibility that the tolls might some day be done away with entirely was also evident in the Court's mind as in this same grant it was further enacted the "Legislature may at any time repeal this Act whenever the public good may require it."

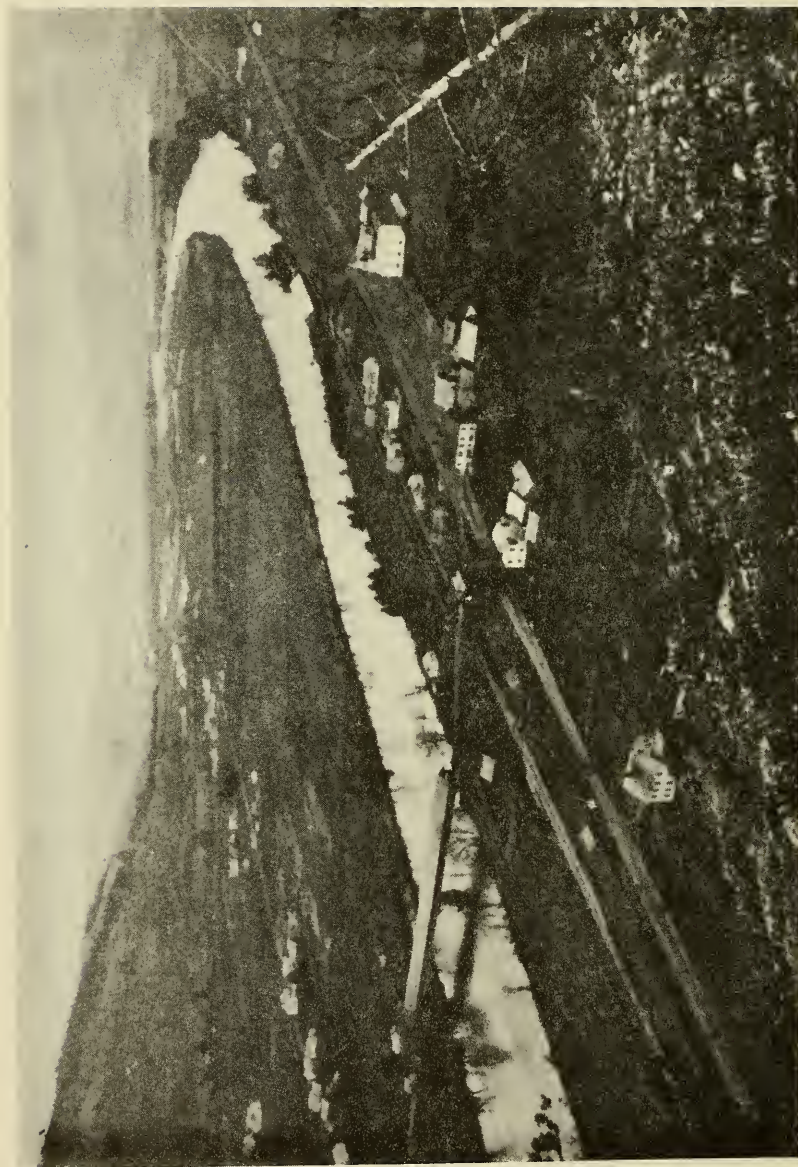
The first bridge was of open construction, cheaper than a covered bridge would be, and was supported on three sets of piers across the river. It was probably about four hundred and forty feet long, the length of the bridge that was to be built in mid century.

After the rates of toll had been set, they were to remain fairly constant with the exception of minor changes until the time the bridge was made free. In February 1863 the proprietors voted a discount of one cent on "carriages, waggons, sleighs, and sleds" for each crossing when the lawful rate was six and one-quarter cents and a one-third discount on rates of twelve cents and above if such tolls were paid quarterly. It had been the practice for some time to make actual contracts with people for the toll charges, such contracts for usually about ten dollars annually and this fee could be paid in quarterly or semi-annual payments. Then in March 1864 the toll on teams of two horses or two oxen, if owned in Fairlee or Orford, was raised from eight to ten cents. The next rate change was in August 1869 when a ticket system was inaugurated. This was to be a big bargain, as buyers of tickets received a twenty percent discount and if you were already a shareholder in the bridge it was fifty percent. Another interesting notation in the minutes of the Company appeared under date of February 24, 1890 when it was voted that Mr. Clarence Carr, whose widow still lives in Orford, would be allowed to use two horses on his team going for the mail train but would pay only the regular toll for one horse. That business was good and the investment a sound one appears evident from the records. In one case Mrs. Daniel

Elliott was forced to retire from the toll collectors job due to ill health and the "pressure of business;" and the minutes of the quarterly meetings almost without exception after the covered bridge was built show a vote of a dividend to the shareholders in a total amount of usually at least two hundred dollars. The only exceptions were when some extra funds were needed to replank the bridge. Speaking of toll collectors recalls the fact that in 1804 they were warned to accept only silver payments as bank notes on any bank would be unacceptable to the owners.

The troubles of operating the first bridge were not always to be of a financial nature. In 1804 the records of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire show a lawsuit brought against the Orford Bridge Proprietors by Samuel Morey. It had apparently been threatened for some time and it was hoped could be settled out of court. Morey had inherited the ownership of the ferry from Fairlee to Orford from his father and felt that the operation of the bridge unduly hurt his ferry business and the bridge had been unlawfully erected. It appears that when the bridge was first to be erected Israel Morey had signed a full release insofar as any claim because of his ferry operations could be concerned. The original permit of construction had to be extended as we have seen and Samuel Morey felt that as another release had not been received he had a rightful claim of damages. A committee from the Proprietors was appointed to get his terms of settlement and Samuel Smith reported that Morey would withdraw his action and pay his own cost if the owners would pay him one hundred dollars annually, ten percent of any increase in tolls from a specified date, and also permit the Morey family free passage on the bridge at all times. To this offer the owners voted a unanimous refusal. His fate was to be no better in the courts as it was ruled proper releases had been obtained and that the bridge was of a more important nature considering the people as a whole who had occasion to cross the river.

All parts of our land have their historic landmarks but probably none are of more nostalgic a nature than the old covered bridges of New England. Due to the demands of this automobile age and the toll that must be paid to the elements over the period of years, many of these old structures have been replaced or destroyed. This was particularly true in Vermont after the flood of 1927 so that today in Orange County only about twelve bridges are still standing. It is a source of fond memory that Fairlee was to have one of these venerable servants for over eighty-five years. The bridge that was built in 1802 had outlived its best usefulness by the middle of the century and was replaced by a covered bridge in 1856. Like many other covered bridges, it was of the Town lattice truss type of construction. This consisted of a crisscross pattern of hand-hewn planks for the side frames and was invented by Ithiel Town of Connecticut in 1820.



TOLL BRIDGE OVER CONNECTICUT RIVER

Although more expensive to build, it was of simple construction and time was to prove its great strength under excess stresses and strains. Though somewhat weakened in the flood of 1927, it did not suffer the fate of so many bridges which were completely washed away and destroyed. On the north side was a covered walk built in 1925 which served faithfully to keep the foot travellers protected from the elements, whether their mission to the other side be one of business or perhaps of more romantic inclination. And it can be said with a certain assurance of correctness that many young—and old—couples made a wish when they entered the darkened mysteries of the bridge, holding their breath until their faithful team had reached the other side. Romance, it is true, has played a part in the history of covered bridges; but we must also report they had other more practical purposes; whether it be to offer refuge to travellers caught in a storm, to keep horses from shying while crossing the water, or merely to protect the flooring and underpinning of a bridge against the ravages of weather. One item of interest, which may not occur to those who know of these structures only through books, was the annual fee paid for having snow put on the bridge floor during the winter months so the sleighs could traverse with ease. One such item of expense was \$1.50 paid Mr. H. P. Warren for several years for discharging this very necessary work.

Tolls were collected until 1894 when on October 25th it was voted the town should assume this expense and a special tax of \$454.01 was levied to pay Orford Bridge Corp. for "freeing" the bridge. At this same time it was agreed the Fairlee boundary should be fifty-five feet from the west end of the bridge, or about one eighth of its total length. On March 5, 1895, a precaution was taken by the Town Meeting when it voted a "five dollar fine for any person to drive on or over this bridge faster than a walk." This was probably the first speed law enacted by the local enforcement officers.

Except for the usual repairs to maintain the bridge in passable condition, it served its people well. In December 1898 a heavy wind blew off part of the roof, but it was not until 1936 that a lethal blow was struck. Although the bridge was still used after the great flood, it had been severely weakened and this fact, together with the demands of heavy trucks and motor cars, made it evident a replacement must be made. On January 15, 1937 the present Samuel Morey Memorial Bridge was started and was dedicated June 29, 1938. These exercises were attended by state officials from both New Hampshire and Vermont and the gathering was addressed by Mr. John Davis, formerly of Fairlee, who gave a talk on the inventions of Samuel Morey, of whose life Mr. Davis had made a thorough study. The day of the covered bridge was ended, the shades of its final night had been drawn over its former resting place and its character was probably best evaluated by the reporter who wrote for the "United Opinion" that the "intestinal

fortitude of the 'old timers' who built that bridge must have been built right into the bridge itself, for it withstood the ravages of that flood (1927) and other floods before that one, without even stirring from its foundation."

Of some interest is the fact that although the two towns of Fairlee and Orford were able to work for the combined interests of each in the construction of the bridge, the corresponding states were unable to settle their differences as to which had control of the Connecticut River. This argument was carried on for years, whether the line should be the middle of the normal course of the river, or all in one state or the other. The various state authorities were unable to arrive at a conclusion and it was finally taken to the courts. Appeal followed appeal until it reached the United States Supreme Court. There, in February 1933, a decision was reached that the boundary line between the two states was the low water mark on the Vermont side, thus putting the river practically wholly in the state of New Hampshire.

Easier access to the nearby towns was not the only development in the transportation system of the middle century. The "iron horse" was becoming a very definite factor in the economic development of the country and the state. Although railroads were to be known as early as 1828, it was twenty years later that eastern Vermont was to be served by this new monster of speed and economy. It had been proven that the Connecticut River was not a suitable answer to the transmission of goods to and from the other states and a cheaper way had to be found. The first train in Vermont was on the "Vermont Central" from White River to Bethel. Fortunately for Fairlee, however, there was a man in Saint Johnsbury who had foresight and a large business interest to sponsor a line along the river. The first plan was to lay the tracks on the New Hampshire side, from Woodsville down the valley through Orford and Lyme, but due to the work and fight of Asa Low of Bradford, the final plans for the line were as we know them today; and September 1846 saw the first ground broken for the present route owned by the Connecticut and Passumpsic Rivers Railroad Corporation. This company had been originally given a charter in November 1835 but it was allowed to lapse, to be renewed in October 1843 and in November 1845 only the part north of White River was so named.

It would be nice to think the morning of October 10, 1848 dawned clear and cool with the sun shining on the hills beside the Connecticut valley showing forth their loveliness in all their resplendent Fall colors. It is almost certain the way was lined with people, young and old, wondering what this strange new sight would really be like. Was it the smoke-belching demon coming from out of the horizon they had perhaps been led to believe? Too few could possibly realize the tremendous effect it was to have on our country's history from that

day forward. Finally their patience and curiosity were rewarded—the first train to pass through Fairlee was here! It is so easy to picture the pride that must have shown on the faces of the crew—Mr. Caswell sitting proudly at the throttle, H. D. Butterfield making sure the fire had plenty of wood to feed its angry appetite, the conductor, Mr. Dutton, proudly chatting with the passengers on the one gas-lit coach, Mr. Amos Barnes of Lyme keeping a close eye on his duties as brakeman, or George Gates in full control of the baggage car. And so it was the “Green Mountain Boy,” with its funnel-shaped smoke stack and wood-burning boiler was to make its encroachment on the quiet and peace of the valley under Morey Mountain and the Palisades.

The railroad first ran from White River to Bradford, to be extended in November to Wells River and the following month to Saint Johnsbury. The dream of Erastus Fairbanks was fulfilled. Over the next several years it was to be further extended, reaching Barton in 1857 and the Canadian Border ten years later. The “Connecticut and Passumpsic” had its financial pains, however, and in 1887 it was run by the “Boston and Lowell Railroad,” later to be managed by the “Boston and Maine” in 1892 and subsequently being fully owned by that company.

To most people of Fairlee, residents and summer guests, probably the railroad has been most exemplified in the station agent. He is the one who has sold the tickets, checked the baggage and freight, hauled your trunk to the summer cottage or camp—for a consideration—and many times been a merchant of the town. Oh, Fairlee has seen the change from wood burners to coal to oil, wooden cars to all-steel palaces on wheels, bell ringers to the blood-curdling horns of the Diesels. These have come and gone their way, but the railroad has always seemed to be the man in the station. The first agent was George Brown, who served from 1849 to 1871. He was followed by F. M. Bailey (1871), Benjamin Driggs (1872), Sylvanus Graves (1873), Perley Mason (1874), H. W. Carley (1889), Fred Daniels (1892), W. H. Daniell (1894), and George Thompson (1903). Then in 1905 came one of the two men who have served in total for over half a century, F. H. Moore. His term ran until 1922 when the station came under the management of the present agent, “Joe” Alger.

Business

AS WE stand in the middle of Fairlee Main Street today, especially during the summer months, and see shoppers from the lake and farm regions with the local townspeople carrying out their shopping requirements, it is somehow hard to visualize this as a town originally with nothing but a grist mill and most of its needs taken care of by merchants and shops several miles away. Today Fairlee has eight gasoline and auto service stations, a thriving chain grocery store, and the individual shops where the needs of its people are filled. To many it seems as though man's modern beast, the auto, is best cared for; but to few, is it necessary to go far for their everyday wants or pleasures. Fairlee, however, did not in the past experience, maybe did not want, the growth of business that was seen in Bradford or West Fairlee. The former became a shopping center for all the surrounding countryside and West Fairlee grew in the business sense when there was considerable activity in the copper mines of that vicinity. It seems that the town fathers have decreed over the years that their town was to stay unmolested by the whistles and factories of bigger business and was to be for the convenience and support of its own alone.

When the first settlers staked out their futures in Fairlee, their first need was for a sawmill and grist mill. Until such were raised, it was next to impossible to hew out their lumber for their new homes by hand and it was necessary to go to Charlestown, New Hampshire, 60 long, arduous miles away with the trip usually being made on the ice during the winter months, to have their corn ground into meal. That this was almost the first order of business is understandable and we find the records of the town meeting January 4, 1780 showing a vote "whereas the settlement and cultivation of the Township of Fairlee is greatly retarded by reason of there not being mills—to accomodate the owners and inhabitants thereof:—100 pounds to Israel Morey Esq. provided he shall within the term of 2 years from the first day of

December next coming erect and compleatly fit for business a saw and grist mill on some suitable place on the outlet from Fairlee Pond (so called)...." Although there is reason to believe an extension of time was needed, we do know Israel Morey fulfilled his contract probably by 1783 and the first mills were located near the river on the site later known as Abbott's Mills at the outlet of Fairlee Pond. About this same time and we must remember Fairlee—which included West Fairlee as we know it today—had about 200 inhabitants, plans were also made by Nathaniel Niles for another grist mill in that section of the township on Middle Brook.

Records of these early days are scarce, but we know that the general business growth of the town was slow and most of the inhabitants were given to farming and able to be practically self sufficient. Except for demands made by the summer people as Lake Morey was to take its place in the life of the town, Fairlee has always tended to the agricultural and dairying interests in the economy. It does appear, however, that the medical and legal problems of a community were considered of some importance at an early date, as we find in 1843 both of these professions listed in Walton's Register. What became of Dr. Francis Davis is not known and although Moulton Morey was to go far in the legal profession of his state, his shingle was not to grace his home in Fairlee for more than a year or two. It may have been as William Child claimed: "Counsellors-at-law probably think the prospect of procuring their bread and butter by their profession here has a somewhat bilious appearance." The son of Israel Morey appears to have been the first and last of his profession to have practiced in the town. That the ills of the body were more regularly attended to is evidenced by the records, although even in this field there seems to have been no need for one man to stay in town for more than two or three years until recently when the health of our good people has been watched over by Dr. Jean Henderson and Dr. William Putnam. Nothing is known of Dr. Stark in 1837 or Dr. C. J. Wood, Dentist, listed only in the year 1863.

Although the first years of the town saw the business life largely concentrated at the south end of Main Street, or the River Road as it was then known, it was about to grow during the middle of the last century at the north end where it is now. That it should first be at the south end was natural enough, however, as we must remember that was the site of the sawmill and grist mills, at the outlet of Fairlee Pond and was also the approximate landing for the ferry from Orford. Israel Morey had built his mills about 1783 at the outlet, sometimes called "the ditch," and this was to be followed in 1866 by a sawmill owned by D. C. Abbott at about the same spot. Prior to the Abbott mills being built, Jerediah Pierce, Jr., grandfather of Mrs. Homer Perkins, had bought the mills formerly owned by Samuel Morey, located across the road and just east of the present home of Verne

Batchelder. These were sold to Mr. Pierce by George Morey May 25, 1852 for \$830.00, he having acquired them from Leonard Wilcox, administrator of Morey's estate, in 1850 for \$1,000.00. The deed described the property as "about three acres of land and the Saw and Shingle Mill are the same together with the sawmill privilege formerly owned by Samuel Morey deceased.....also the right to maintain the dam across the brook near the house occupied by E. Rugg.....and the right to build and maintain a dam at the outlet of Fairlee pond....." One of the interesting features of this sawmill was that it had an up and down saw which permitted the handling of much bigger logs than would be normally possible. It was to pass from Jerediah Pierce to his son, Frank, eventually to become abandoned so that today there is practically no evidence of its former location, the only physical remains being part of the mill now serves as part of a barn on the Batchelder property.

This is also practically true of the site of the old Morey mills which were to be taken over by Sumner Perkins in 1899, having bought out the interests of the Abbott family. Today just a few of the foundation rocks remain of what a hundred and more years ago was the business that constituted almost the life blood of the community. The land has been consumed by ever-growing weeds for the past several years. For a short time after World War II, there was a small lumber mill on the dump site, but this was completely demolished in 1952.

The next center of commercial development on the main street near the Bridge road seemed to start about 1845. Prior to this time there were undoubtedly small stores, as we know as early as 1807 L. H. Granger ran a general store at about the present location of Chapman's Pharmacy, but not until the later years are there available records which show the growth of the town on a regular yearly basis. General history clearly indicates that there were carpenters and other artisans available to meet the daily needs, but we must also remember that the people themselves were of a very self-sufficient nature. However, by the 1840's the real growth of the town had started. Probably the most satisfactory way for the reader to trace this development is to take the sites as we know them today and follow their individual history.

Certainly one of the oldest business places is the recent location of Farnham's Garage, 1955. It has been known for over a century as the "brick store," and, although the years have seen many changes in ownership and types of merchandise to satisfy the changing wants, it has always maintained its seat of prominence at the Bridge road junction. On land bought from Peleg Morey, Silas Read was to build the Brick Store in which he ran his business of making lead pipes and pumps from 1846 to 1853, according to Walton's Register. It was then to be the home of many forgotten merchants until 1884 when it was bought by Herbert Warren who ran a small tinsmith shop in the basement of Abbott's drugstore. He bought it from members of

the Read family. Mr. Warren was to become one of Fairlee's leading merchants and citizens over the next twenty years, selling anything from wearing apparel to buggies and blankets for man's most dependable servant fifty years ago, the horse. In 1904 the business was sold to Hetherington and Bailey, who sold clothing, furniture, flour and feed. The state of business might be surmised by an ad appearing the first of 1905 that from then on all sales must be on a cash basis. In the next few years, Mr. Bailey withdrew from business and in 1908, Lee Andrews bought the remaining interest of Hetherington. That he was to thrive appears evident, as his business was such as to warrant the building of a new store in 1910, to be known as the "block" since that time. This was not to be the end of the "brick store" however, although the next tenant of note clearly indicates the change in the life of man and his wants. The place of the automobile in society had to be recognized and John Munn gave up his interests in the horse as the basic means of locomotion and opened a garage in 1914. As he had solved many personal problems of his fellow townsmen for years, he was to now keep the workings of this new "gasoline buggy" in proper order until 1925. In that year his interests were bought by Walter Kenyon, who maintained car sales and service until 1938. For many years the ups and downs of commerce at this site were varied until the garage was taken over in 1951 by Stanley Farnham, who ran it until 1955. Whether it has been the finest in horse blankets or the best in economy from high octane gasoline, the "brick store" has always been a firm pillar in the business life of the community. Just north of the corner are the service station owned by Reginald Munn and the Fairlee Diner. This was originally started by Morris Roberts in 1939 next to the present Post Office building, moving to the present site in 1946. Since Mr. Robert's death in 1949 it has been operated by his widow and children.

Now wholly non-existent, another important business of town until the First World War was that of livery and proper stabling of horses. It had, of course, been a necessary part of the early tavern business as conducted by the Bailey family, of which more later, and in later years the hotel as run by Newcomb, Gale and Church. About 1905 it was taken over by John Munn and with partners at various times he was to conduct the business in back of the present post office site until 1914 when he moved to the "brick store" corner. Another of recent memory in this same enterprise was Frank Hard and his father "Pop" Hard, the former gradually giving way to the gasoline engine and in his later years, until his death in 1952, running the taxi business of Fairlee, as well as the school bus, now served by Leyton Blake.

Mention has been made of Lee Andrews and the building of the "block" in 1910. Although since 1928 it has been divided into several stores, with living apartments on the second floor, it was first used by Andrews and Cheney for their general dry goods store. In 1913

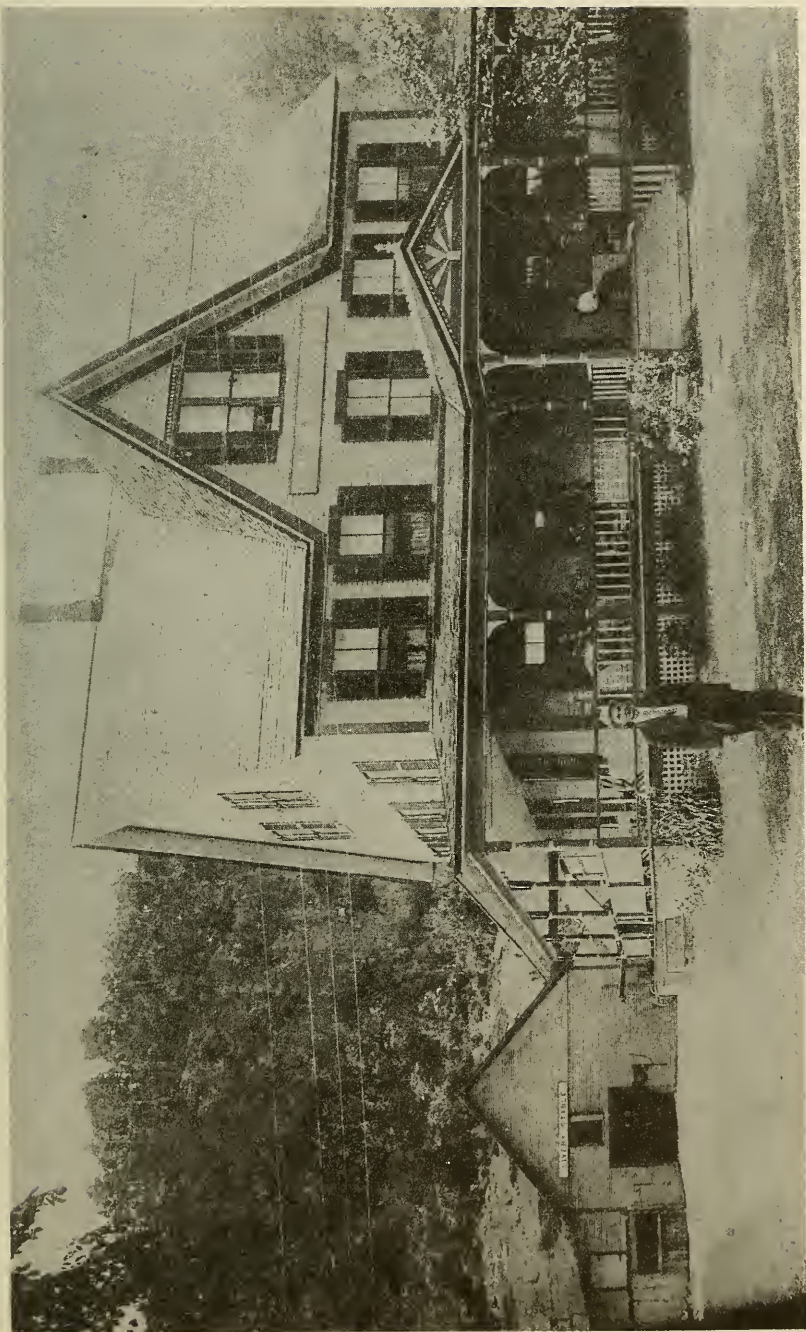
it became known as Andrews Brothers and Cheney and was so conducted until 1926, then being bought out by Edgar Sanborn and Clyde Blake. This partnership was to last ten years and Mr. Sanborn maintained his respected business interests in the town until his death in 1952. The building had been converted in the meantime and the Sanborn investment was taken over by Henry Colby, its present owner. Since 1928 parts of the building have been used by a chain grocery store, barber shop, antique sales room, and Robert DeGoosh's electrical store and newspaper stand. During the Second World War a part of the ell was used by an outside company in the preparation of mica for war purposes.

The "Adams' block" was built by Guy Adams about 1895. He conducted a barber shop until 1924, but of more recent years it has been known as Thurber's Store. Charles Thurber first opened his clothing store in 1897, renting from Mr. Adams. First sold to Alger Warren, Mr. Thurber bought the building in 1906 and served his town as merchant, school teacher and superintendent, and town officer faithfully until forced by illness to give up his business in 1945, when he sold out to Robert DeGoosh. Mr. Thurber died in 1952 and his widow and children still live in their apartment above the old store. In more recent years the store has been subdivided and is now occupied by the Public Health Nurse and the real estate office of Mrs. Doris Strunk.

About 1908 saw the start of what is today the McLam Lumber Company. It was built by Lee Andrews, already a successful Fairlee merchant, and was run by him until the sale to the Donahue Brothers in 1920. That they were businesslike carpenters is evidenced in a note in the Bradford Opinion in 1898 as "hustlers" to lay 9000 shingles in 13 hours having first built the staging and carried the shingles to the platform. Robert Donahue remained in Fairlee until his death in 1952, one of the town's most affluent citizens.

Likewise energetic was one of their employees at the lumber office, "Bill" Rutledge. He was to buy out his employer in 1926 and maintain a thriving business until 1947 when he sold to Karl Johnson and his family. "Bill" then turned his life to one of semi-relaxation, although keeping a fatherly eye on the Rutledge Inn, started by his wife, Ruth Rutledge, and subsequently sold to Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Webb, until his death in 1955. In this same year Mr. Johnson sold the business to Mr. D. C. McLam of Bradford.

Just north of the lumber company was the site of one of Fairlee's foremost creameries. The front portion is now occupied by Tyler's restaurant and ice cream fountain; but when the creamery house in the rear was allowed to come into disuse and finally literally cave in in 1952, the last of many sweet memories was blotted out, the ice cream of twenty-five years ago forever remaining a delicious taste in the mouths of those so fortunate to eat it. This creamery had first been built by Franklin Kronenberg in 1914 and was taken over by the



CHURCH'S TAVERN and THE LIVERY STABLE

Neapolitan Ice Cream Company in 1925 and New England Dairies, Inc. in 1937. It was abandoned in 1940 and the building bought by Mr. Homer Perkins. Mr. Kronenberg was to long remain in the affections of Fairlee due to his civic interests, chief of which was probably his gift of Fairlee's first fire engine in 1919.

As might be supposed, the creamery business was at one time one of the town's foremost industries. The earliest creamery of any size seems to have been owned by Fred Messer about 1898 and this warranted special comment in the local news column as "it seems so nice to have milk delivered." His creamery was at the bend in the Lake road where Mrs. Carol White recently lived, near Reginald Cramer's home. It was later to be owned by B. E. Adams (1899) and Henry Porter (1900), finally coming into disuse about 1910. This present site then (1908) became the home of Kendall's steam laundry, although a different building, the same as now. Before the turn of the century Mr. Kibby was to build the Lake Morey Creamery (1897), it being on the site just south of the depot which since about 1926 has been a residence. Considerably later William Phillips opened a creamery behind the present Kettledrum Restaurant but this was to stay in business only from 1922 to 1927, when he converted the building to a lace and embroidery factory of short duration.

The Kettledrum was started as a tea room by Mr. Phillips and his daughter, Miss Laura Phillips in 1919. They ran it until 1942, it being sold in 1944 to Clyde Blake, its present owner. In 1930 the Phillips bought the Casino on Lake Morey where Miss Phillips still maintains the management.

Another business site which has been in existence for several years is the present location of Leighton Godfrey's hardware store at the corner of the main street and the Lake road. This was built by "Allie" Adams about 1899 and he ran a photograph studio. He and C. L. Bracy took many photographs of the town and Lake of fifty years ago and it is unfortunate that more of their work is not available today. About 1910 Adams gave up the studio and the corner was vacant for some time, the next remembered storekeeper being Ernest Corpieri who ran a candy and grocery store from 1913 until he moved down the Lake road near the golf course corner in 1937. "Corp" stayed there until 1950 when he retired from active business. In 1937 his old store was taken over by Clyde Blake, who had just dissolved his partnership with Edgar Sanborn and he opened a hardware store. For a few months he had been in the Dudley house north of the Kettledrum, but only on a temporary basis. This business was maintained until 1951 when it was sold out to Burton Wadsworth, and in turn sold in 1956 to Leighton Godfrey, the present owner.

Chapman's Store had its start as a general store owned by H. F. Bickford in 1875. He was to remain as a purveyor to all until 1892 when it was bought by the kindly and highly-esteemed F. W. Abbott

who conducted a drug store. The interest and devotion both he and his wife showed the town will long be remembered, as will his penny candy counter be a happy recollection of the past to the children of his day. As Haydn Pearson has written: Five cents was recognized as money in 1910 and a lad did not spend it recklessly. He wanted candy that would last; he wanted something to tuck under his tongue in District School to help pass the time while he worked long division problems and memorized the rivers of South America.....A boy could spend minutes deciding among Zanzibars, derbies, Salem mints, molasses kisses, Cinnamon imperials, foxy grandpas, candy cigarettes, Ju-Jus, sugared peanuts in little red bean pots and licorice that came in half a dozen flavors." It was not just the children for whom his merchandise was a treat, as Abbott's ice cream was a dainty dish for the whole family. His wares, whether for pleasure or a medical emergency, were to serve his town until 1925. Mr. Abbott's withdrawal was not to mark the end of this focal point for the needs of the people. He had trained his clerks well and particularly one, William Chapman. "Bill" as he was affectionately known by his town folks and summer friends, had gone to work as a boy for Mr. Abbott in 1907 and took over ownership upon the latter's death. Although the store was to grow and become somewhat divergent in the lines carried, it has never lost the feeling of friendliness that its walls have known for over a half century. Upon Mr. Chapman's death in 1947 the active ownership was assumed by his wife and son Leland.

Although today the home of Mrs. Charles Munn, this site was for many years important in the business life of the town. It is believed about 1878 this was the home and grain store of H. L. Rice. He was to be succeeded in 1889 by H. W. Carley in the same line of business and three years later by Fred Daniels, but he was soon to sell out to Mr. Rice. The business then was conducted by different lessees until bought as a home by Charles Munn in 1905. Mrs. Munn later conducted a small hotel on the premises known as the "Wayside Inn" until recent years.

This site was also to see the start in business of one of Fairlee's respected citizens today, who is now enjoying a well-earned retirement, Henry Scruggs. He started his plumbing business in 1914 in the north end of Rice's store and stayed there until 1916, when he moved to the site just south of Darling's store. Here the Scruggs family lived and worked until their home and shop were destroyed by fire during the winter of 1947. Henry was then to retire and his business was later resumed by his son Beverley in 1949, after the present home and shop were built on the former site.

Just south of this on the present site of Saladino's Garage and the Post Office was the location of Fairlee's tavern and hotel from its earliest days. Once the property of Israel Morey and his son Darius, it was bought by Launcelot Granger who built a store and tavern in



MAIN STREET — WEST SIDE

1807. He sold the tavern to Solomon Mann and the store to George Mann. Both were to be taken over by the Bailey family of Orford in 1821 when Phineas Bailey, who had run a tavern in the New Hampshire town, crossed the river. The management of the tavern was under the son and grandson, Jerome and Frank, until it was sold to Benjamin Driggs, who apparently went out of business in 1870. In 1871 the hotel was bought by Albert Newcomb and continued under his guidance until 1888, when Herbert Warren, already one of the town's leading merchants, bought the Newcomb interests. By this time it had been known as the "Wynona House," having been named by a Mrs. Wheeler of Orford who paid for one-half the cost of a new sign for the privilege. The name was taken from a poem called "Minnehaha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Mr. Warren maintained control until 1901, although the hotel had been offered for sale the previous year. It then had fifteen beds and a barn of twenty stables, his advertisement saying the volume the previous year had been \$3,000.00. A sale was finally made in March 1901 to Manus Gale and it was called "Gale's Inn." It appears, however, the ensuing years brought decreasing returns. In 1905 it was sold to a syndicate of Gilman Brothers, Frank Carr, and W. H. Worthen; but six months later, September 1905, it was again sold to W. H. Daniell. This sale did not include the livery stables, these being sold to John Munn and a partner, Mr. Cushman. In the meantime Mr. Daniell had built next to the hotel a building to be known as "Daniell's Opera House" and this together with the hotel was apparently leased to Betsy Stebbins in December 1905. The hotel had been renamed by Mr. Daniell to the "Cliff House." The enterprise was to continue to be a ship tossed on the waves of uncertain business profits, apparently, as in October 1906 it was sold to William Church and called "Church's Tavern." He was to remain proprietor until 1911 when it was sold to William Gale. Then in 1913 it was bought by a company of Alger Warren, B. W. Abbott, Charles Thurber, and John Munn. One more chapter was to be written. For over ninety years this had been the site of the town's hostelry, some years without an occupant, some profitable, some undoubtedly showing losses on the inevitable year-end balance sheet. But on September 18, 1914 it was to write an entry from which it did not recover. Of undetermined origin, fire destroyed this structure and, although most of the furnishings were saved, it was not felt advisable to rebuild and the site was allowed to stand idle for several years, although the back part was to be used for the livery stables run by John Munn. Finally in 1930 the present garage was built by Peter Saladino and the Post Office building was erected in 1934.

Mention has been made of the Opera House that was built by W. H. Daniell between the present Chapman Drug Store and the Town Hall. The town had felt a need for a place to house the travelling shows as they might appear or for the proper location of plays and enter-

tainment produced locally. Consequently, in 1905 it was voted to grant tax exemption for a year to encourage such a building; and along with the church plays, we soon find ads calling attention in big red and black letters to the visit of the famous Coleman and Reid's group of travelling thespians with their blood-tingling production of "Ten Nights in a Bar Room." The belief that perhaps if his customers were put in a merry mood it might make their resistance to regular salesmanship methods wane is apparent in an advertisement of Mr. Daniell's for his new Opera House. Under date of May 26, 1905 he announced "Bookings for Daniell's Opera House—Thursday June 1st. Muslin Ball. Ladies are requested to wear muslin dresses, any color you wish. Gentlemen are to dance in shirt sleeves, any color you wish. Ice cream, cake, and coffee will be served. Music by Brock's Orchestra. By the way, just unloading a car of \$2.25 shingles."

The course of ownership was to change hands twice in the following seven years. First it was leased to Mrs. Besty Stebbins and in 1909 for a short period was managed by Frank Hard. However, changes of title could not prevent the cause of its final disappearance from the scene of daily life and entertainment, as on the night of December 5, 1912 it was to be engulfed in the fire that was to wipe out this whole site, including the Library and Church.

Part of this building was used for the more material needs of the day. Under the hall was located a harness shop owned by William Porter. Its location may have been better planned than believed, as it was most vital in the days before the modern gas buggy that if one was to have entertainment for the soul, he must first provide his faithful mare with the proper shoes and harness. The shop was bought in 1910 by Mr. Stebbins, but life was to be short, as it was in his shop the fatal fire had its origin.

The moving picture was soon to become of age, however, and about 1914 they were shown in the Town Hall by one whose name has passed without recall to the writer. In 1925 the programs were taken over by Charles Thurber and John Munn, and many have fond memories through the ensuing years of the hard seats, the dashing heroes with their beautiful heroines, the piano playing by Miss Wynona Bogle to set the proper mood, and the lovely hand-painted scene of Lake Morey on the screen given by the Fairlee Thespians. With the decline of moving pictures, or due to other diversions, this part of Fairlee life passed on a few years ago to be replaced by the current fashion of the outdoor "drive-in."

The next business site that reaches back into the pages of time is the present unoccupied location, recently Whedon's Grocery Store, although its original service was not one sought after by the good folks of Fairlee, as was to be true for many years later. W. H. Daniell started an undertaking business in 1897 and his advertisement in the Bradford Opinion of the same year seems worthy of comment for

its promotional value. He announced his new occupation "with determination of offering nearly a carload of caskets at such low prices that it will service orders from this vicinity, and attract customers from a radius of at least 50 miles of Fairlee." Whether the carload was sold or not, we do not know; but in 1905 the business was sold to A. E. Hale and apparently transferred to Mr. Hale's location in Bradford. The site was soon to turn to more pleasant commodities to offer the public, and in 1910 was bought by M. W. Prescott for his meat market. Three years later it was bought by W. C. Morse and in a similar time was taken over by "Steve" Darling. His reign, always assisted by his wife, was to be long and unusually prosperous with an enlargement on the store building and delivery service to the many cottages on Lake Morey. Time, taxes and the increasing popularity of the chain stores, however, were eventually to take their toll; and after serving his fellowmen for thirty-five years, "Steve" hung up his apron for the last time in 1951, disposing of his interests to Stanley Whedon. Mr. Whedon died in 1953 and the building has been vacant since that time.

Although we have traced the growth of business in the commercial sites still extant, over the years there have been many who came and went, contributing their abilities to the welfare of Fairlee, making their marks on the pages of Time in varying degrees. It is impossible to list them all, but mention of some will show the various types of work offered in this growing community, many to be curtailed by death or the gradual lack of the particular services offered. One early artisan was Benjamin Comings who started the manufacturing of charcoal in 1856. This trade was carried on from 1876 to 1888 by D. F. Tilotson, whose coal kilns were about at the present location of the McLam Lumber Company. As is so often true, however, transportation costs and production by larger combines forced the small individual out of business, and the kilns were allowed to fall into disuse at the turn of the century. One of the first requirements of the early settlers was good equipment for felling the trees and building of homes. Unquestionably tools were all hand made in the earlier years, but by the middle of the century we find the manufacture of axe handles, spokes, and helves to be of major importance. Some of these artisans with their approximate dates of business were; D. A. Morrison (1859), E. L. Kelly (1869), and H. C. Smith (1880). Stone jars and butter tubs were other important utensils and many of these were to be hand made by B. W. Davis (1869) who lived near the present home of Ralph Hodge on lower Main Street, or George Mann near the end of the century (1892), whose place of business was the present site about of Ray Humphrey's home. One of the most important trades was that of blacksmith. Not only did the horse's shoes have to be kept in good shape but there was always a wagon rim or other important piece of iron to be shaped or repaired. Among the better remembered of these

were probably H. S. Porter, who had his shop in back of the Munn house (1872), C. A. Washburn (1879), or Richard Faulkner and Mr. Huber, who were located just north of the "brick store," in the late nineties and about 1910. As the feed and grain business was handled by various merchants in the past century, today it is done largely by E. T. and H. K. Ide Company. This was started in 1897 and is still at its original location south of the railroad station. The original settlers were able in many cases to provide their boots and shoes from their own leather. At the turn of 1800 many of the general merchants carried such necessities and with the exception of Benjamin Brown (1801), who was a ferryman for Israel Morey and the father of George Brown, the first station agent and also postmaster; and Ira Goodwin (1869) as purveyors of boots and shoes, this trade seems to have been done in the general stores entirely. As the years passed, milady and her fashions were not to go unattended. For many years, of course, all the family clothing was made by the women of the household but by the coming of 1900 we find mention of millinery for sale by a Mrs. Wallace who lived with W. H. Daniell; and of fond recollection to many is the sight of Mrs. Kate Brennan sitting in her window on Main Street sewing dresses of the latest fashion for the lady of the house. Her home was the present residence of Fred Hayward, Sr.

Although mining was to be a large industry in Vershire and Ely (West Fairlee), such was not to be the case within the confines of Fairlee. In 1898 Joseph Everett formed the Fairlee Peat Company and had two or three beds in the Brushwood section. A slate company was also founded the same year, but neither were to be of long duration. Incidentally, it should be remembered that the Brushwood section was originally one of the most thickly settled parts of town. This was no doubt due to the early families seeking the higher lands believing the land there to be more tillable. Another venture of short duration was the quarrying of granite. This was done by E. P. Kendall who had his office at the present home of Mrs. James Davis. Some of the more prominent work he did is the horse trough at the corner of the Library hill in Bradford, part of the Colonel A. M. Dickey monument in Bradford and possibly parts of the stone house recently (1955) owned by Winfield Hefflon.

It is felt to be of some passing interest that what might have become one of the town's biggest enterprises did not materialize. In 1934 it was voted to try to raise \$60,000.00 for the creation of an airport that was to take in part of the old Spear, McIndoe and Hodge farms north of the village. It was, however, impossible to raise the funds and this project was forced to collapse; and although air coverage in this part of the state is not too adequate as yet, it might have been that such a port could have become a major link in a growing chain.

Such has been the growth of a town on the business side of the ledger. Many of the ventures proved to be of long and fond



MAIN SQUARE — WEST SIDE



ANDREWS' BLOCK

memory, a few came and went leaving no impressive imprint: Whether it be a site, such as the "brick store" or the work of a man and his hands alone, such as Guy Adams serving as barber to four generations, they all had their share in the fortunes of this town under the cliff. To some, perhaps, a bigger bulk of commercialism should rule over this part of the valley, to others the small development by the individuals has been sufficient; but to all it has meant the serving of man by his fellow man in meeting the daily necessities of living.

Indicative of the times, it might be interesting to mention a few advertisements that appeared a half century or less ago, creating maybe a sense of nostalgia, a thought as to the value of money in years gone by, or just a bit of humorous reading to some. Apparently one of the best guarantees of old age was heralded "The human machine starts but once and stops but once. You can keep it going longest and most regularly by using DeWitts Little Early Risers." This was to be followed "at the first sign of a cold, the best remedy is Abbott's White Pine Cough Syrup." Hardly a resident or summer visitor to Fairlee has escaped the merits of "Chapman's Liniment," be your ills one of aches and pains, or most any cause of distress to mortal man. The fame of this product has been world wide, literally from the South to North Pole. To those struggling with the high cost of clothing, perhaps the following will be further cause of irritation: "For only \$4.99 we offer men's Spring outfits as follows: 1 man's suit, 2 outside shirts, 1 undershirt, 1 pr. Drawers, 2 prs. stockings, 1 pr. suspenders, 1 soft Felt hat, 1 pr. Arm elastics, 1 pr. overalls, 1 pr. shoes. No trash or Sleezy Goods." For those who take their family out to eat the ad of 1898 might appeal: "Sunday dinners served at Warren's new cottage, Lake Morey, for 35 cents." To insure cleanliness at low cost, H. P. Warren offered a special for four weeks of a rocking chair "and a good broom—\$1."; or of a more personal interest was the soap offered by Mr. Abbott when he wrote, "We have that much talked of Harmless Soap. Every lady wants to try it. You'll use less of it—Harmless Soap." Nor was the horse forgotten as you could buy in 1896 the "BEST in town" horse blanket for one dollar at Warren's. Is there perhaps some merit to the well-worn saying "Give me the good old days?"

Population

ON A recent summer's day a Vermont State policeman, upon noting the license plate, asked a friend of the writer's if there was any one left in Connecticut, the influx of visitors seemed to be so great. It would be nice to think that our present visitations were a rebirth of the settlement by our Connecticut ancestors of almost two hundred years ago. Unfortunately such is not the case, as the population of Fairlee, as of many small towns, is today about the same as one hundred years ago. There has been some increase the past twenty years, but from a high point of 1,143 in 1820 it has dropped to 575 in 1850 and 571 in the census of 1950.

What are the reasons for this decline? They are several and represent an interesting part of the history of Fairlee and the state. The first census was taken in 1790 and Fairlee had 239 souls. This was to increase to 386 in 1800, but was actually a greater increase than might appear evident as during the previous decade (1797) Fairlee and West Fairlee had become different townships. The next decade was to show a larger increase to 983, and still further in 1820 when there were 1,143 inhabitants. The population was to then start dropping, to 656 in 1830 and to continue until the low point was reached in 1890 when the population was only 398. Since then the graph has reversed itself and is still on the increase. Before considering the decline in the population, however, let us first look at the reasons for increase. As we know the original buyers of the Governor's grants were largely speculators. It was not their intention to remain and settle Fairlee or any other town in which they had bought rights. The first census shows there were 80 families in the town, of which only three apparently were of the original grantees' family, Cook, Dickinson and Wright. These had come to find themselves new farms and places to raise their families. Many were of a young enough age so that the immediate family grew in size, the figures showing the great percentage being still classed as children. As these grew up, in many cases they stayed and had families of

their own. By 1800 the average family was almost six persons, but it is noted that of the three original families apparently two, Dickinson and Wright, had moved away and only twenty-nine of those here in 1790 had remained. This is on the negative side which will be considered later. Another reason for the increase was that many of the real settlers had, after a few years, written their friends and relatives in Connecticut and induced them to leave their ties and make a new life in the northern wilderness. Among these was the Morey family which, counting all the relatives, totalled seventeen souls. Of more pertinent fact, however, was at the turn of the century three families were in Fairlee who have descendants living here today. They were the ancestors of Mrs. Selden George and her son, Newton and daughter, Mrs. Earle Edmonds; Mrs. Homer Perkins and her family; and Mrs. Charles Oliver.

That the all around concept of a town was growing by 1800 is perceived in the census figures of that year. There were still more farmers than other occupations, but by then there were eleven merchants, two doctors, eleven classed as laborers, one lawyer, one miller, and one stonecutter. Real estate values had increased and, although the average farm was still small and valued at about \$2,000-\$2,500, one farm owned by A. H. Gilmore was placed on the census table valued at \$7,000. The land largely had limited value, however, and the prevailing farms had to be scattered along the river edge to a great extent.

So the increase and first growth of the town was possible. The tide was to turn, however, soon after 1820. There seem to be five major reasons for this turn of events. We have found that many of the original settlers staked their claims in the Brushwood section of town. This was true of many who came to the river towns, believing the higher lands to be more fertile. However, with no benefit of crop rotation and other means of preserving the soil, it was soon evident these farms had been overworked to the point of poor production; and the only choice seemed to be to move on to another site, often out of town. Another reason for some of the decline was a general movement westward, not unlike the previous one to this country fifty years earlier. As in the first days of Fairlee's settlement, many from Connecticut, friends and relatives of the Vermont settlers, had gone to northern New York and particularly Ohio. Some were friends, many were relatives, and the natural urge to unite the families again was bound to be one of much weight. The canals and turnpike roads had been laid and with the advent of the railroad, travelling was for a part at least easier and the venture seemed not too hard. The failure of wheat after 1820 would seem to be further cause for emigration. It was not just a local problem, but a state one. First it was damage by the wheat weevil, then in 1826 the whole state was visited by a wave of grasshoppers. We remember that previously wheat had been one form of payment for taxes, but with a decline in the production,

the farmers became discouraged and decided to move on. Then there was sickness which caused an abnormal death rate and accounted for some of the changes, although the 1811 epidemic of spotted fever did not seriously affect the census count of people. However, consumption, poor diet, and meningitis were definite means of causing drops in the population and, in some cases, the basis for families moving on to perhaps healthier grounds. Added to these reasons were the lack of any industrial plants or other means of livelihood to encourage people to migrate to this vicinity.

As we have seen, Fairlee was largely agricultural in its economy until the development of Lake Morey, and since then the commercial picture has grown in its relative position to the overall income. Today's figures are not as obtainable as to the various types of produce grown, improved acreage, etc. However, a general knowledge of the town can easily be compared with conditions a century ago. 101 families were listed in the census of 1850 of which 82 were farmers and 11 were merchants. There was a total of 5,462 acres of improved land and 3017 unimproved. There were 88 horses but no mules. The tractor of today was unknown and that work was largely done by the 124 working oxen. Some kept pigs, 221; but the largest stock was in sheep, 1575, for which there had been a reason. There is evidence that in 1836 Fairlee had over 5000 sheep, as in those years sheep raising had become one of the most profitable investments throughout the state. This was due to the tremendous requirements of the textile mills in the other New England states and the Vermonter was quick to grasp the opportunity. This new-found wealth was to continue until about 1846 when all protective tariffs were lifted and the price of wool fell to a disastrous point. Financial loss stared many in the face and it was necessary to sell stock for what could be obtained and turn their efforts to other products. As wheat had been a major crop in the past, by 1850 this position was taken by Indian corn, when the farmers of Fairlee reported a crop of 7978 bushels, wheat dropping to 740 bushels. Another large crop was Irish potatoes, but it is noted the census taker officially reported the hay crop was short by one-third and the oats by one-half. From a dairy standpoint, Fairlee made in this same year 16,475 pounds of butter and 7,400 pounds of cheese. Before we leave this report, it should be noted the average pay for a farmhand with board was twelve dollars, a day laborer without board eighty-eight cents, a domestic servant with board received the magnificent sum of a dollar and a quarter a week, the same pay received by a carpenter for a day's work. And so we know Fairlee today and a century ago, as to its economy. Formerly a town to gain its livelihood from nature, it has survived depressions, grasshoppers, and changes in demands. Whether it was richer then or now is a question for each to answer in his own mind; but in any event and with all its changes, the town held its head high and served its state with pride.

Politics

IF ONE should ask the average outsider what were the politics of Fairlee, the answer would unhesitatingly be, "always Republican just like Vermont." This would not be true, however, as we find that on more than one occasion the local voters have cast their ballots according to their conscience and belief in what was best for them and not to conform to pattern. It is unfortunate that until the election of 1824, there are no local figures available as to the votes cast, and it would be of some interest to know if the Federalist movement which held considerable power was, temporarily at least, approved by the town. It is fair to assume probably not, as the votes in the succeeding years were cast in favor of the Democrat Republican candidates, until that party merged in to the Whig forces and later became known as the Republican Party.

The first real breach came in 1832 as part of a national movement that was particularly strong in Vermont. This was to be known as the Anti-Masonic movement and for a few years was to exert its pressure on both national and state politics. In brief, it resulted from the supposed murder of a William Morgan in New York State by a group of Masons after Morgan's attack on the power and exclusion of others than Masons in the political and economic circles of the country. There was a wide-spread feeling of anti-democracy in the movement, resulting in splits of varying degrees throughout the towns and even into the churches of the country. There are no records known in Fairlee which show such a split locally, but we do know in several neighboring towns, Piermont, Newbury and others, it resolved itself into a serious affair; with the result that several church members had to forego any further connection with the Masonic orders to which they belonged to continue their church membership. Locally we know it had its effect from the political angle, as Fairlee returned its vote for the presidential candidate William Wirt instead of either Andrew Jackson or Henry Clay. It also favored the gubernatorial candidate William Palmer. Although

this movement was soon to burn itself out, it did create scars which were to take years to heal, but there was to be no evidence of it, politically at least, in Fairlee beyond this one election, she returning to the fold, shall we say, in 1836 with a close vote for William Harrison (Whig) over Martin VanBuren, 44 to 42.

The next turnabout was soon to come. In the election of 1844 Fairlee was to make one of her few appearances in the Democratic column, voting 57 to 36 in favor of James Polk over Henry Clay. This trend of mind was to carry over into the next election, and although part of it may have been because a neighbor from New Hampshire was aspiring to the highest office in the land, it is fair to assume these predecessors of today's voters were casting their ballots as they believed to be for the best national interests. Lewis Cass was not to be successful over Zachary Taylor, but Fairlee had done her best in his behalf.

Of interest to some may be the record of votes during the two campaigns of Abraham Lincoln. We all know the position Vermont and her people took on the question of slaves, they being unlawful in the original constitution of the state. Believing in the rights of man, and not to be persuaded by the fancy oratory of Stephen Douglas, Fairlee's vote in the election of 1860 resoundingly spoke for itself: Lincoln 70, Breckenridge 25 and Douglas 19. That their beliefs were unchanged is evidenced again four years later when the town again helped Lincoln to the White House with a vote of 75 to 47 over General McClellan. The war had taken her fathers and sons, had made it difficult at times to raise the necessary taxes and food rations, but these privations were small when it came to a matter of principle and belief in the right way of life. For these things Fairlee had always cast her vote and we suspect always will.

Politics, so far as vote casting was concerned, were to remain fairly stable for many years. The records show almost a two to one, or better, division between Republican and Democrat until 1912. This was the year the big jovial William Howard Taft was to seek reelection, having been favored in 1908 by Fairlee 69 to 14 over the advocate of free silver, William Jennings Bryan. Taft, however, was opposed by the man with the big stick, Theodore Roosevelt, and the school teacher from New Jersey and maybe the men of Vermont were more prone to admire the "rough rider", whether it be against big business or politicians. In any event, the President was to run a poor third, the vote being Taft 14, but Wilson 23 and Roosevelt 64. Fairlee's efforts were in vain, however, as the nation was to elect Woodrow Wilson, who again in 1916 was not to meet with the town's favor, the results being Wilson 31 and Charles Evans Hughes 64. Since 1916 the voting record of Fairlee has been strictly in the Republican column and without particular incident. It may be interesting to note that in 1940 the Communist candidate received two votes, although the party was not then held in the same disrepute as is true today. The Prohibition candidates have

fared no better, receiving one vote in 1924 and two in 1928. The largest vote ever cast was in 1952 when the town gave 237 votes to Dwight Eisenhower and 35 to his opponent Adlai Stevenson. In this respect it is indicative of the increased interest in a national election in 1952 as compared to the apparent interest a century earlier. With about the same population, 575 in 1850 and 571 in 1950, the total votes in the earlier election were 73 in the Pierce-Scott contest of 1852 as against 273, almost four times greater, in 1952. This is indeed a healthy sign as to the part the people of Fairlee feel they are privileged and obliged to play in the welfare of their nation. Their increased responsibilities are clearly recognized and assumed, as has been true for almost two hundred years.

Such has been the voting record of the town over the years of our national history. It is to be lamented, perhaps, that Fairlee has not given to national or state politics any outstanding persons since the days of Nathaniel Niles and Israel Morey. This does not mean that her representatives in the state government have not all done their job conscientiously and in many, many cases have been assigned to important committees with results of considerable import to the welfare of Vermont, the town and the nation. Maybe it is better this way, for each to have done his own part of the bigger task in a quiet, inoffensive and serious manner. It may be part of a more comprehensive plan which has seemed to become evident to the writer in searching old histories and records, and that is the more or less general lack of outstanding political figures on the broader scenes from this particular part of the state. In any event, the town does owe much to its representatives over the years; Samuel Smith, Alexander Gilmore, of later years, William Kelton, Charles Munn, Mrs. William Rutledge, Frank Ward, Mrs. Charles Munn, Mrs. R. Dewitt Mallary and others, for a time-consuming, headache-provoking task well done.

We spoke of Nathaniel Niles and Israel Morey. We have already seen these two men in the earlier days of the town when getting it started to a full growth was the undertaking of everyone in the relatively small colony of two or three hundred souls. These two were to cross paths in many ways but whereas Morey was to become more involved in the economic growth of the village, Niles' path was to turn to the political fields. No doubt the contests would have been more frequent if West Fairlee had not been established as a separate town in 1797, but we do find them competing for the same offices in 1794. At a Freeman's Meeting in September 1794 Niles received 17 votes for Governor and Morey one vote for Lieutenant Governor. Morey also received ten votes for the office of Governor's Counsellor, but in every case both he and Niles were unsuccessful. In December of the same year they were to oppose each other for Congress, Niles receiving 25 votes and Morey two. Israel Morey's lot was not to be a political one of national prominence, although he did serve Fairlee

in the Legislature in the sessions of 1786, 1788-1790, and 1793-1797. The intervening sessions were attended by Samuel Smith, who was also to be elected in 1798-1799, and 1808. The early records of the Legislature abound in important committee assignments held by General Morey and it is all too evident the high esteem in which he was held by his superiors and fellow legislators.

Nathaniel Niles' political life was to start in Fairlee in 1784 when he was elected representative and was chosen by his compatriots as Speaker. Recognized by Governor Thomas Chittenden for his ability he was sent as an agent of the state to the Continental Congress with reference to the various claims being made by New York for certain lands of Vermont. This same year further honors came to him as he was made an associate judge of the Supreme Court, which position he held for four years. Niles was made a member of the Council of twelve members from 1785 to 1787 and after Vermont was admitted to the United States in 1791, he was one of the first Congressmen, being elected for two terms. After his return from the national scene, Nathaniel Niles represented the town in the Legislature from 1800 to 1803. Although West Fairlee became a separate geographical division in 1797, it was not represented separately from a political standpoint in the Legislature until 1803.

On the strictly local scene there have been changes in administration over the years, but the records show that Fairlee has been quite prone to know and recognize good men and women for the various offices when they have had them. In these days of rapid change in so many respects it is comforting to find certain names holding posts of responsibility year after year. It has not resulted in a case of stagnation, rather a condition of stability and no doubt accounts for a large part of the reason Fairlee stands so well in the financial health of Vermont towns. Let us not jump to the conclusion, however, that this condition has not had its preamble of divergent opinions, heated debates in an informal caucus of three and fours around the general store's pot-bellied stove or Post Office door. Town Meeting has seen its full share of insufficient votes on several successive ballots to name one for Town Clerk or someone else for Selectman eventually having the necessary minority change its mind to make a majority. Oh, there have been politics played and played to the hilt! Our chief concern is that such conditions are still possible and our wish is that they always will be; as, when this possibility becomes a thing of the past, our way of democratic life has gone, and the best means of getting the man or woman most suited for Town Clerk or Lister or Cemetery Overseer will become but a sham. It is in these beliefs and a desire to serve their community that in their respective offices over the years such men as Samuel and Grant Smith, William Child, Arthur Paine, Charles Thurber, Alexander Gilmore, Herbert Warren, Warren Ordway, William Chapman, and many others have

steered the course of Fairlee through the seas of growth, depression, wars and prosperity to the town we know it as today. a small New England village under a cliff proud of its past, hopeful of its future, always trying to do its best in the national, state or local being.

Taxation

IN THESE days of high income taxes, surplus taxes, sales taxes, and many others, both direct and indirect, people often yearn for "the good old days." Perhaps a review of history and the full realization of what our ancestors were exposed to in the way of financial problems would radically change their thinking. The common saying "death and taxes are always with us" was just as true in 1775 as it is now. In considering this part of our history, it is felt necessary to study briefly the problem from the State level as well as the more local angle; because then, as now, the burden had to be passed along to each and every taxpayer in the many towns and villages.

During the last decade of the eighteenth century many towns in Vermont, including Fairlee, showed a rapid growth in inhabitants. The original grantees of the land had bought for speculation and now that the future of this new region seemed secure, they were having no trouble selling at a profit to the real settlers. One reason for this was that, unlike the other New England states which were raising heavy taxes to carry on the war, Vermont was paying its way from the sale of lands confiscated from the Loyalists and the unsold lands not previously granted. With such a healthy condition, Ira Allen, brother of Ethan Allen and State Treasurer, declared "It was thought good policy not to lay any taxes on the people." This condition existed largely from 1778 to 1781; but the clouds of gold were soon to disappear and in 1781 bills of credit were authorized to be redeemed in 1782 by raising a state tax of one shilling three pence on each pound declared in the taxable polls. From the lists we have, we can assume the heaviest burdens in Fairlee were carried by Israel Morey with a taxable poll of over eighty-six pounds, Ichabod Ormsbee rated fifty pounds, and Samuel Smith, who was taxed forty-six pounds. As we shall see later, at this same time local taxes were becoming a problem to all. The vast acres of land that could be sold by the State had not fully materialized and, added to this, was the rapid devalua-

tion of Continental currency. Although it had gone out of circulation in 1780, having maintained any fair value only from 1775 to 1777, many contracts had been based upon such payment. Debtors were in their glory and large obligations were settled for practically nothing in real value. The State felt its obligation and in 1781 and 1787 set a value for the currency on a six-months basis, making all contracts drawn between September 1, 1777 and September 1, 1786 payable on the following rates based on a normal of 100 as of the earlier date: January 1778—140, July 1778—240, January 1779—450, January 1780—2000, and September 1780—7200, with all on a retroactive basis. After this date, the Continental currency lost all value. A financial crisis arose, prices went to unbelievable heights, the State had resorted to bills of credit and due bills, and it was only with the cancellation of value in the old paper money that normalcy was returned. An example of a bill of credit is owned by Mrs. Selden George which was issued to her ancestor Samuel Smith, Fairlee tax collector for many years, which reads: "State of Vermont. Treasurer's Office June 18th. 1778. Rec'd of Benjamin Baldwin fifteen pounds one shilling for the use of this State and on your allowing this to the Bearer it shall become your sufficient Security against this State in Settlement. (signed) Ira Allen, Treasurer. To Samuel Smith, Commissioner Signification Fairly in this State." The reverse side reads "An order from Loan office on Smith." The State had set up two loan offices to collect advance taxes and other monies on each side of the state.

Today there are advocates of a state and even national lottery to help defray the unusual expenses that have faced our governing bodies. Such was the case when Vermont was called upon to defend her borders from possible invasion in 1778. So early in the life of the towns and state no reserves had been acquired and it was all too evident these unusual burdens could not be entirely financed by additional taxes. It was, therefore, voted at the request of Ira Allen, who was state treasurer, that a state lottery would be conducted. Two offices were established in 1778 to receive loans to the state which were to be repaid at six percent interest on ten pounds and more, but this did not raise sufficient funds, and so it was voted in February 1779 to print ten thousand tickets to sell for ten dollars each and five thousand at twenty dollars each to meet the present emergency. First prize was to be three thousand dollars, with the drawing December 1, 1780. We have no record, of course, of Fairlee's participation in this campaign, but being state-approved it is hoped some of the town's early settlers drew a lucky number.

That the building of roads was of vital importance in the growth of the new towns was recognized by the Legislature at an early date. We have seen the special taxes voted for such purposes and yet hard money was a thing of scarcity. Consequently, in order to put on equal burden on all, a state law in February 1779 required four days work

from every male between sixteen and sixty for the making and repairing of highways. The only exceptions were to be ministers. Each was to be rated and paid 18 shillings a day between May 15th and June 15th, with a similar work period from the middle of September to the middle of October. If any should refuse, and no doubt some tried to evade their share in the work, a fine of thirty shillings a day was levied.

In addition to the special taxes laid on the lists as we have seen for such purposes as roads, church, and other unusual expense to the town, there were regular taxes placed yearly as established by Vermont law. An example of this was the tax levy as laid in 1779, with changes being made in the years to follow as they are now. In that year it was decreed every male from 16 to 60 had to pay a poll tax of six pounds. The only exemptions were ministers, school masters, students, president of the college, and tutors. Of real property, the land tax was ten shillings per acre if enclosed and had been improved for at least one year for ploughing, mowing or stocked with grass. Steers or heifers were taxed a pound for each year of age up to four pounds, horses one pound a year with a maximum of two pounds. Money, which was not too plentiful, was taxed six pounds for every hundred pounds owned. To many, the idea of an income tax is of relatively recent vintage. This is not so as under this same law attorneys were taxed fifty pounds and up depending upon their practice, the lister being the sole judge. It is hoped some of the leading legal lights had not ever made personal enemies of the listers or it is feared they would have paid well for any animosity. Likewise, men in business were assessed according to their "gains and returns."

With the return to hard money, and realizing Vermont was not yet one of the United States of America, it will be news to some that this Republic had its own coinage system. By a legislative act of June 15, 1785, Reuben Harmon, Jr. of Rupert was given the sole right for a period of two years to coin copper, not exceeding 8000 pounds. In October 1786 this was extended for eight years from July 1, 1787 as the expense of getting sufficient copper and erecting the mill warranted a further guarantee to Harmon. On his part, he was to pay to the State after three years two and a half percent of the copper coined and post a \$5,000 bond to represent his good faith. The coin was to weigh not less than four pennyweight fifteen grams each; and was to be inscribed "*Auctoritate Vermontensium*" and on the reverse side "*Inde. Et Lib.*" meaning for independence and liberty. This motto was actually changed to "*Quarta Decima Stella*" and "*Vermontensium Republica.*" These coins are still available today from old coin dealers and good copies represent a reasonable investment. Just how long the coins were actually made is not known, although they did go out of actual use in 1791 when Vermont was admitted to the Union. Even before this, in 1787, there was an attempt made to have them with-

drawn as not being legal tender, but the bill was not reported out of committee in the Legislature.

To many the tax collector is an ogre and purveyor of nothing but bad news. To others he might be considered as merely the recipient of an undesirable job. It is not felt that either can be said of the tax collectors who have served the Town of Fairlee. From the days of Samuel Smith, who held the office from 1791 to 1836, to Deacon William Kibbey, and on to the more recent terms of Charles Thurber, and Mrs. William Ross, they all have been civic-minded and well-respected townspeople. Their job has not always been easy but the work has been honestly and well done. The office is an elective one as the result of the annual vote at Town Meeting, and, on many occasions, the fight has been rugged. This has not always been so, however, as we find a century ago the practice was for the various men interested in the job to make a bid and there are such records as the election of 1855 when the low bid was eight dollars by William Kibbey to a high of fifty dollars. Deacon Kibbey was elected and held office for many years, although his bid was not always the lowest, as in 1857 he was underbid by Amos Waterman who would take the office on a bid of four dollars, but lost to the incumbent Kibbey, whose bid was seven dollars. Undoubtedly, his services and esteem by his fellow voters more than made up for the three-dollar difference. Today the office is usually tied in with the office of Town Treasurer and Town Clerk.

The first approval to control tax collection by local ordinance was granted by the following request to the Legislature:—

"To the Honble the General Assembly of the State of Vermont now sitting.—

The Petition of Israel Morey on behalf of the Proprietors of the Town of Fairlee in Orange County Sheweth

That the said Town was originally granted by New Hampshire but before the Proprietors could hold any meetings they with the rest of the Hampshire Grants fell under the Jurisdiction of New York by the Adjudication of the King of Great Britain in 1764.—

That the Government of New York not having any Laws for warning Proprietors Meetings—the said Proprietors for the sake of allotting & settling said town and bringing it into a State of Cultivation, by an Agreement of a large majority of the Proprietors, held proprietors meetings as near as their circumstances would admit conformably to the Laws of New Hampshire & have from time to time laid taxes by votes of the said Meetings

That a considerable part of said taxes have been collected & applied to the use of the propriety agreeable to their votes

That their situation rendered it absolutely necessary to lay some taxes in such meetings after the whole town had been allotted into Severalty

That some persons who are in arrears refuse paying their arrear-

ages pretending that such meetings were not lawfully warned or held

Your Petitioners therefore pray the honble the Legislature to pass an Act enabling the Land owners in said town to meet in such manner as proprietors meetings are by law held & (if they shall see proper) by vote to confirm the Proceedings of former meetings & to collect the arrearages of taxes heretofore voted by said Proprietors —

And your Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray &c. —

Israel Morey

Rutland 21st Octr 1786 —"

Prior to the people of Fairlee choosing their own collector, he was appointed by the Governor and Treasurer of Vermont. The appointment carried with it sufficient power to see that the wishes of the State in the matter of tax collection were fully complied with, as is seen in the assignment of Samuel Smith to do this task. We are able to quote the original commission: "To Samuel Smith Constable of the Town of Fairlee in the County of Orange Greeting: Whereas the General Assembly at their session in Norwich, in June 1785, did grant a Tax of Three Pence on the Pound on the list of all the Polls and rateable Estates of the Inhabitants of this State, for the Year 1784, to be paid in hard money only. These are, therefore, in the Name and by the Authority of the Freemen of the State of Vermont, to command you to collect of the inhabitants of the Town of Fairlee aforesaid, Three Pence on the Pound on the list of all Polls and rateable Estates for the year 1784, in hard money only, and pay the same into the Treasury of this State, on or before the first Day of September next. And if any Person or Persons shall refuse or neglect, to pay his, her, or their just Proportion of said Tax you are commanded to distrain his, her, or their Goods or Estate, and the same dispose of as the Law Directs, also satisfy your own Fees: And for want of such Goods or Estate, you are directed to take their Bodies, and them commit to the Keeper of the Gaol in the County of Orange within the said Prison, who is hereby Commanded to receive him, her, or them, and them keep safe, until he, she, or they pay and satisfy his, her, or their just Proportion of said Tax, and be released according to the Law; and also satisfy your own Fees. Given at the Treasurer's Office, in Sunderland, this 26th Day of July— Anno Domini 1785. Ira Allen Treasurer (signed)." An interesting footnote in Allen's own handwriting is appended, indicating the details of government very often did not keep to schedule in those days either; "N. B. These Warrents would have been issued immediately after the Beginning of the Assembly But by mistake the Grand List of 1784 was not lodged in this office till Wednesday last. I. Allen."

Among other items of Mr. Smith's which help us to learn better of the early life of Fairlee are several receipts, showing that all taxes were not just raised on the "Polls and rateable Estates," but that the public coffers were partially filled with various fines that were

levied. Such receipts are a fine of one dollar paid by Joseph Cone for "breach of Sabbath," two dollars received from Thomas Clark "for catching pickeral," a license fee from Phineas Bailey of two dollars and twenty-five cents for keeping "a house of publick entertainment," or a tax paid by Smith himself for which the receipt reads "duty of one dollar for the year for and upon a two wheel carriage called a chaise owned by him and the harness therefor." Another similar receipt was for a "four wheel carriage called a waggon," such taxes being paid "in conformity with the laws of the U. S." in 1815.

It would appear that upon occasion there arose some question as to whether or not the amount of taxes collected was correct according to the collector's report to the Town. Under date of April 23, 1785, a special Town Meeting was called at the home of Solomon Morey for May ninth, with the hope "the time will be punctually attended" to consider among other matters: "To see whether the Town will, by petitioning the General Assembly, or otherwise take any measures to procure a settlement of the account of Israel Morey Esq. as Collector of Proprietor Taxes for the Township of Fairlee and to draw forth such part of said taxes as remain in his hands into the Service of the owners of the lands in said Fairlee."

Upon at least two occasions we find Fairlee was "doomed" by the Legislature. It was the practice of the Legislature in its early history to "doom" a tax assessment of what it considered an equitable amount when the towns did not promptly or fully make the necessary reports of its taxable polls and property. The first such record we have of this was an act of October 23, 1782 when Fairlee was "doomed 508 pounds for not returning proper returns of property valuation for assessment by State" and again in 1788 the act read "no return of improved lands and request the house to proceed in dooming." It can be said, however, this was not an unusual experience and represented no blot on the good record of Fairlee in its long history, as the towns who were doomed were many and often.

And so the town has always had its taxation to meet, from its earliest days to the present, whether it be a penny an acre to help in the building of a "house of Publick Worship," to survey and lay out the first roads in town, to "pay for necessary record books and other Town expenses," for procuring a standard of weights and measures, or the more current needs of improvements to the school house, or for the winter patrol of Lake Morey. The expenses have been carefully studied in Town Meeting, be it 1785 or 1955, the voters and taxpayers have seen their obligations and met them fully, and today Fairlee has one of the best financial ratings of any town in Vermont.

Under the terms of one of Vermont's earliest laws, Fairlee, as is true of all towns in the state, has been charged with the care and support of her less fortunate residents when it came to the possession of worldly goods. This has been true not only of the more permanent

residents, but also the itinerant beggars and tramps who are apt to visit along the way and ask for assistance in obtaining their daily bread. It has been a problem with its ups and its downs, and the mental agility of such as John Brennan, Charles Munn, and Charles Pike has often been taxed in the past fifty years so as not to have the legal requirements of the town abused by the tramps along the road. The care of their own people has been one problem and the years have shown that the selectmen of the town have done their share in providing the proper care for the less fortunate, although the burden on the taxpayer has been heavy in less prosperous years. It has ranged from the usual practice of the early 1800s of contracting with some family to take care of one or more cases, perhaps even offering such to the lowest bidder, to the outright provision of funds and other aid to the family or individual in their own home. An entirely different problem has been the tramp stopping on the way from parts unknown to destination questionable. If such indicated his intention to overstay his welcome a century ago, the usual procedure was to have the selectmen "warn" him out of town. Another action was to provide shelter and food in the town tramp house. This is not new, records showing the matter of a tramp house was referred to the Overseer of the Poor as early as 1878. It has, however, apparently always been a question of much concern as to where it should be located and just how much care had to be given these people at taxpayers' expense. The last several years the tramp house has been located at the dump but it does not seem this is the ideal location as its nearness to several homes results in undesirable conditions. If it is located on the Brushwood Road, its accessibility is difficult. And so it goes, from one Town Meeting to the next. The law is definite in its requirements but it does not seem to be a problem that is perfectly solvable. The continuing bodies of selectmen struggle with the solution and it may be found. Until it is, the tramps will come, the tramps will go and the citizens of the town will meet their obligations as they should. They are too good at heart to turn against their fellowman, regardless of his station in life, and it is just one more item that taxes have had to cover — last century, this century, and probably the next century.

Public Services

UNLIKE many small communities, Fairlee did not have any organized fire department until about 1920. It was noticed in the earlier years, at the time of the Glen Falls Hotel and Opera House fires that the only aid was from a quickly-fashioned bucket brigade, that unfortunately was able to be of only small value. In 1919 Franklin Kronenburg, owner of the creamery, presented to the town its first fire engine. Having served its town as occasion required for over twenty years, it has been allowed to retire, except in case of emergency, and is saved for the place of honor it rightfully deserves in the annual Fairlee Day parade, having been most affectionately shined and polished the night before by some to whom it represented days of greater utility and glory. In 1929 it was voted to buy a new truck and at that time the Model A Ford, which now takes its place as Fairlee Engine 2 in the parade, became the means of help in time of fire. It too was to become old-fashioned as time flew by and in 1943 the present giant of protection was purchased.

Although the members of the fire department are all on a volunteer basis, they remain loyal to their chosen duty. Drills are held as are meetings on a regular basis, and the newer methods of control are always subjects of earnest discussion on many occasions. The alarm system was started in 1921 and the fire station was built in 1930. In 1949 a resuscitator was purchased by popular subscription and has proven its value in several cases. The present organization was started about 1940, there now being a full company of twenty men headed by their elected chief; but the first volunteer group was started twenty-five years ago, although interest was eventually to lag and it was necessary to reorganize at the latter date.

Although a local group of civic-minded citizens considered the possibility of electricity in Fairlee as early as 1898, it was not until 1909 that service was extended by the Bradford Electric Light Company replacing the gasoline street lamps.

Eleven years earlier it was proposed to form a company to run an electric line from a dynamo to be located at Perkins Mills and it was believed possible to provide two to three hundred lights for Fairlee and Orford at an annual cost of about one thousand dollars. This modern wonder was not then to be, however; but the Christmas season of 1909 gave a further cause for rejoicing as by the end of that year Fairlee Main Street had two lamps. The service was continued rapidly as might be expected and as each family was able to partake of this great convenience. In 1915 the street lamps were extended to Lake Morey.

The subject of many cartoons, the means of pleasure and comfort to several, another great invention of this age was to be made available to the people of town in about 1888. There is some question as to just when the first telephone service became available as it was the practice for the first several years for someone to rent a line from one of the outside companies and in turn lease it to several people on his line. Until the merger of several smaller companies by what was to eventually be the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, it was possible to have two or three competing lines extending service to this town. We do find a newspaper clipping as early as March 1889 showing that by then Fairlee had a private line. It said "Frank Gove has had a telephone put in to connect with the Fairlee private line and now when there are any poor biscuits or cold biscuits Frank can just ring up one short and two long and the mother-in-law will investigate." No doubt her cooking was a subject of farmer telephone conversation on many a dull morning. One of the lease lines was taken by W. H. Daniell for twelve dollars a year in 1898 and by 1901 he had subleased the service to 36 parties. He wanted more, however, as in 1903 he advertised a suggestion that people unite in building a half-mile each of wire so they could have the advantages of the new wonder. Other companies over the years were the Fairlee and West Fairlee Telephone Company, the People's Telephone Company and in 1907 the Fairlee Telephone Company was formed. This was a partnership between Charles and J. Ralph Pierce, the latter remaining in this work for several years with various companies. Mention is also found of the Lake Morey Telephone Company about this same time, being formed in 1904, eventually to be bought out by the Connecticut Valley Telephone Company in 1926, as it had the Fairlee Telephone Company in 1916. This merger was to serve forty subscribers in Fairlee and Thetford. The Fairlee company had its office in the Post Office at Thurber's Store until 1910 when it was moved to the more familiar "telephone office" of recent years in the house at the corner of the Lake road and Main Street. Here it was to stay through more mergers until the whole system was acquired by the New England T. & T. Co. in 1947, only to be dispossessed by the modern working of the dial system in 1951, when all operations were transferred to the White River office.

To many this represented the end of an era, as in spite of its apparent inadequacies, the familiar crank type of telephone on the wall was a friend to all and, to many, the only source of news and an always welcome interlude from the chores of the day.

Whether it be a business note or a letter from a loved one, the arrival of the mail is one of the day's most anticipated happenings. Today with four or five deliveries at the post office possible, it is perhaps hard to visualize the beginnings of the service a century and a half ago. Upon Vermont's entry to the Union in 1791 the legislature passed an act establishing offices at Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Windsor, and Newbury. At that time the mail was carried by post riders and the usual rate was four pence for man and horse for each mile covered, unless the mail had to cross the Green Mountain range, then it was six pence. Needless to say, the amount of mail in those days was but a small fraction of the amount received today, often much less in a year than would now be common in a single week. Although the official Post Office Department records credit Fairlee with having the first post office established in 1825, the early records were not too accurate apparently, as there is evidence that Launcelot Granger received an appointment as post master by President Thomas Jefferson in July 1808 and was to serve until 1818. He then was succeeded by George Mann under the administration of James Madison. This was to last until March 1825 when his brother Solomon received the appointment.

Just where the post offices were maintained is not certain until 1893, but it is assumed that insofar as many of the postmasters were in business and the volume was not such as to make it a full-time job that the office was conducted in with their regular business enterprise. In 1893 Fred Abbott was appointed and the office was in the drug store until moved in 1899 to Thurber's Store upon Charles Thurber's appointment. Mr. Thurber was to serve the longest of any postmaster to date, from May 1899 to June 1934. During that time the system was to see many improvements and one that will be a fond memory for many of the local and summer residents was the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. William Leach as the rural mail carriers in 1907. As the years wore on, good weather or bad, the sight of the Leaches riding along with their sun umbrella on the carriage pulled by their faithful horse was one to make its fond impression on the minds of people along the route until Mr. Leach's retirement in 1935. In June 1934 Mr. Berne Titus became acting postmaster and he received his permanent appointment in February 1935. At this time the post office was moved into its present location, a beehive of industry during the summer months and always the focal point for distant neighbors to meet and greet, stealing a few seconds from their workaday world to pass the time of day and catch up on the other's news and views. Mr. Titus retired in September, 1954, when he was replaced by the present postmaster, William Ross.

Although the National Archives and Records Service of Washington reports the Fairlee post office was established in March 1825, we find Mr. George Driggs, formerly of Fairlee, writing in Hemenway's Historical Gazetteer that actually L. H. Granger held the office of postmaster from July 27, 1808 until 1818. At that time "for reasons good or bad" the office was discontinued. In October 1819, however, it was resumed with George Mann as postmaster. He held this office until March 20, 1825 when his brother Soloman was appointed. Subsequent postmasters over this ever-growing public service have been:

Appointed

Isaac Farrington	April 1, 1826
George W. Brown	October 11, 1829
Jerome B. Bailey	September 27, 1831
George Brown	September 9, 1845
Jerome B. Bailey	July 14, 1851
Benjamin Driggs	June 1, 1868
William H. Child	February 6, 1872
Mrs. Phoebe Brown	January 27, 1873
Herbert P. Warren	August 13, 1883
Fred W. Abbott	August 18, 1893
Herbert P. Warren	October 5, 1897
Charles Thurber	May 12, 1899
Berne B. Titus (Acting	June 1, 1935) February 15, 1935
William Ross (Acting	September 1, 1954) August 2, 1955

Of not so placid a state is the story of the water supply in the town. The subject of much individual discussion as well as the basis for serious argument in more than one Town Meeting, the past half century has thrashed the question back and forth to finally having seemed to have arrived at a satisfactory solution today. Although many homes had their own water supply from springs, this was not always a sure enough source of supply. The first major town supply seems to have been a private line furnished by Albert Newton and it was known as the Fairlee Aqueduct Company and at times the Fairlee Water Works. This was bought in 1929 by A. L. Adams and E. D. Lucas. The main source was from springs on the western slopes at the south end of Lake Morey, the water rights being mainly owned by W. H. Kibbey and assigned to Newton in 1885. The aqueduct was in use at Kibbey's "barn and the so called Morey place (presumably the present home of Ray Hoyt) on the west side of Fairlee Pond Brook—the said aqueduct conveys water from the Brook that runs through the western part of land owned by me and empties into the Pond at the Grove." The rights were later transferred to Betsy Stebbins (1905) and the provisos of the sale quote some rather interesting details in that Mrs. Stebbins agreed to furnish 100 gallons a day to the home of Alice Mann, enough to supply the steam boiler at George Mann's tub factory, although "to be excused from furnishing said

water in case of freezing or other unavoidable stoppage."

Even though a system had been started, it was to be bedeviled with complaints and it was not unusual to read in the local news column such as "Last Sunday afternoon the main pipe that supplies about 25 families with water froze and it is causing much inconvenience" as happened in January 1897, or six months later "What do the people of Fairlee think about the water which is so much needed in this village. One man is willing to pay one-third of the expense if some one will do the rest. Call at the depot and talk it over." This offer was made by W. H. Daniell and it may have done some good as two weeks later the pipes were being laid deeper and there was "fair prospect of water this winter." It was not all a question of the vicissitudes of nature. It is believed to be about this same time that one of the village humorists complained to Mr. G. L. Winship, a very proud and serious-minded civil servant, that he was feeling ill because he had drunk so much lake water from the system that he had swallowed three bathing suits. It turned out that the coughing spell he had been having when he saw the venerable gentleman was from swallowing some tobacco juice.

The next major step was to be in 1909 when several local men headed by Charles Thurber, Lee Andrews, B. W. Abbott and others bought the rights that then prevailed being "practically the only available supply for the furnishing of water to the town of Fairlee and recognizing the need of a good water system for said town." This was later to be managed mostly by Mr. Thurber until current problems necessitated the town's considering the establishment of a town-owned system. At a Town Meeting in 1945 a committee of five were appointed for this purpose and at a special meeting in May 1946 it was voted to purchase the privately-owned company and with a bond issue of \$60,000 over twenty years to build a new reservoir on Glen Falls Brook, pump house on Lake Morey, and chlorination plant. Although some problems, technical and financial, have cropped up since then, the water supply question seems to have been generally solved and the service today is of a usually adequate nature.

The Morey Family

"A PLACID easy gentleman, with beaming countenance; and when I knew him his hair was blanched to perfect whiteness. It seems almost as if I could see him on his gentle horse passing by on a summer's day with a slow trot, dressed in light colored garments, much in Quaker style, with a cloak thrown over one arm, the very personification of quiet enjoyment." Such were the words spoken at the Orford Centennial by Joel Mann in 1865 of Israel Morey, soldier, benefactor, business man, landowner, and stalwart in the early days of Fairlee.

Born in Hebron, Connecticut, May 27, 1735, the son of George Morey and Hannah Lewis, Israel was to live the life of a normal farm boy, obtaining the large part of his education from the limited schooling and books then available. One of his friends and teachers was Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College, from whom he learned surveying and bookkeeping. This friendship was to blossom in later years when they both had moved to New Hampshire and was the basis for an unfulfilled hope by Morey that Dartmouth College would be located in Orford. Another friend in Hebron, or sometimes referred to as Lebanon District of Connecticut, was John Mann. He was to heed early the call to the north country and played a large part in having Morey later move his family up the river. John Mann is of particular interest to Fairlee, as he was not only the first settler in Orford, but was also the great, great grandfather of Dr. Lewis Silver, one of the longtime residents of Lake Morey.

On July 14, 1757, Israel Morey married the daughter of a neighboring farmer, Martha Palmer. To them were born three children while they lived in Hebron, Israel, Jr., Samuel and Moulton. It was then 1765 and Israel had been receiving wondrous words and messages of the opportunities to the north. Besides John Mann, another neighbor, Richard Cross, had settled in Orford. Having been prosperous to a degree, Israel decided to make the move and with his family

started the weary trek up the river, arriving in the spring of 1766. Although history has reported well the trials and tribulations these early travellers had, Morey's only comment on his trip is said to have been "it was accomplished without accident or incident." The break with his old home ties was complete, having sold his house and lands in Connecticut to his father-in-law; although the Hebron records show a sheriff's order obtained by Israel Morey against Palmer for failure to pay the 275 pounds agreed price for the property.

As we have seen, many of the original grants under the New Hampshire Grants were of a purely speculative nature but Israel Morey was to become one of the largest landowners in Fairlee at a very early date.

The first land Israel Morey was to buy in Fairlee was on April 18, 1769, the "9th. Yr. of His Majesty's Reign," when he purchased for twenty-five pounds from Ebenezer Green two whole rights or Proprietors' shares that originally had been given by Benning Wentworth to Oliver Warner and Jonathan Hunt; these probably being lots 28 and 29 on the map. This was to be followed in 1773 with the purchase of more land near the mill pond when Morey bought lots 58 and 59 for sixty pounds from James Richardson. It was this combined site which was to be the location of much of Morey's life in the village, his home and mills.

He not only bought several rights in Fairlee but also in the towns of Piermont and Ryegate. His interest, however, was to be lodged mainly in the towns of Fairlee and Orford. His ability was soon recognized and he was one of three appointed by Governor Wentworth to lay out the original town. His was an interest created by desire to build as well as that of a property owner, which he became soon after he had built his log cabin and settled his family in the New Hampshire village.

It is to be remembered that until 1797 the town of Fairlee included the town as we know it today and also West Fairlee. Like so many of these early settlers, Nathaniel Niles emigrated to Vermont from Norwich, Connecticut. He was a man of wide education and a student of medicine, law, and the ministry. He was also of an inventive mind and had become prosperous in the wool industry. His interest was then to turn to land development for which one Daniel Wild writes he paid "two wool cards per acre," and to politics. In this latter field he was perhaps to reach higher offices than friend Morey. In their apparently only direct campaign for office Miles received in December 1794 twenty-five votes for congressman against Morey's two votes. Of more particular interest, however, is their development of the township where a study of the real estate sales shows Morey soon consuming a goodly part of the present Fairlee and Niles a large share of West Fairlee. That their ways did not cross too often in this field is evidenced by only one recorded sale between the two men,

THE UNITED STATES.

To all to whom these Presents shall come:—GREETING.

Whereas

Samuel Morey of the County of Suffolk State of New Hampshire, hath presented a petition to the Secretary of War, and the Attorney General of the United States, alleging and suggesting that he hath invented the following useful improvement not before known or used, for the purpose of having a Spitz—that is to say, consisting of a pipe, through which the outward air is directed on the wings or flues of a stove placed within a chimney, which by an endless screw or pulley communicates motion to a spitz, and praying that a patent may be granted thereof, thereby, that the said invention hath been deemed sufficiently useful and important.

There are therefore in pursuance of the Act, intitled 'An Act to promote the progress of useful Arts, to grant to the said Samuel Morey his heirs, assigns, or assigns for the term of fourteen years, the sole and exclusive right and privilege of constructing, using and vending to others to be used, the said invention, inasmuch as he the said Samuel Morey was the inventor, according to the allegations and suggestions of the said Petitioner.

In Testimony whereof I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed. Given under my Hand, at the City of Philadelphia, this twenty ninth day of January, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety three, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the sixteenth.

City of Philadelphia January 29, 1793.

I do hereby certify, that the foregoing Letters patent were delivered to me in pursuance of the Act intitled 'An Act to promote the progress of useful Arts, that I have examined the same, and find them conformable to the said Act.

By the President
W. Patterson

this being the sale by Morey of 500 acres in 1783 for 187 pounds and ten shillings. It is easy to visualize, however, the possibilities of these two determined individuals trying to outdo each other for some desirable piece of land and its resultant dickering.

Morey was not to be known just as a landowner, however. His record as a soldier during the Revolutionay War was one to be commended, although most of this service was seen in the New Hampshire Guard where he organized the first Orford military company known as the "12th. Regiment of Foot." That he was quite concerned with the proper use of his men appears to be evidenced in a question he raised for the call of men in reply to a demand by General Bayley. In a letter dated October 19, 1780, Morey writes his commanding officer "It looks to me that all of men on road for Coos and what men is gone this and the other way cannot be wanted unless you have more of an enemy than we have any list of but you must be the best judges." His was not the right to disobey, but his independent thinking and interest in his followers welfare was always uppermost in all his dealings. Israel Morey was to retain his New Hampshire command until 1781. He was then dismissed from service with the rank of colonel, but strictly for political reasons. He had been appointed colonel of his regiment on August 24, 1775 and his knowledge of firearms, supplies, and handling of personnel was more than evidenced by the many assignments given him on these matters during the ensuing years. The exact reason for his dismissal is not known and only the record on the side of the state is available; but we find in the records of the New Hampshire House of Representatives "that on account of Colonel Morey's neglecting to comply with orders and requisitions Colonel Israel Morey, as it appears, neglecting his duty as commander of his Regiment, upon report of a committee it was Voted 'That Lieut. Col. Charles Johnson be directed to take command of said Regiment until further order of the General Court.'"

Unlike his superiors in the State, he had felt that the towns on the east side of the river in the Grants should join the Vermont towns in their state. It is believed this was a sincere belief and not motivated by the fact that Morey had large investments across the river. It was, however, contrary to the thinking of the government and his years of service were ungraciously ended with dismissal. Although his life as a soldier was about to end, he was commissioned to command the Fifth Vermont Brigade and resigned as a Brigadier General in 1794. His letter of resignation to Governor Chittenden was: "Sir I have for nearly twenty years Served my Country in the Military Department. I am now so far advanced in life, that I wish for leave to resign my office as Brigadier General in the Second Brigade and Fourth Division of Militia.—I think, Sir, it would be for the interest of the Brigade which I have the honor to command that I should resign at this time.—I therefore request your Excellency that

You would be pleased to accept of it. I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant. Israel Morey
Rutland, Octr 18th. 1794"

Mention has been made of Morey's one tilt with Nathaniel Niles in the political field. Although Niles was probably the more successful in the elective arena, becoming Speaker of the House, a member of the Governor's Council and a representative to the Continental Congress, Israel Morey served his town well on the state level. He was elected the Fairlee representative, having moved from Orford in 1782, for the years 1786 and 1789 through 1790 inclusive, and from 1793 through 1797. His abilities were noted by all and we only need to read of the several committees on which he was a member to realize his wide-spread interest in the affairs of his fellow Vermonters. During his several terms he was chosen to assist in drawing up a bill to permit landowners to meet and transact the business of their towns, or the right to hold their own Town Meetings, he was a member of the Tax Committee to "doom" the towns for taxes, to write an act regulating the Justices of the Peace, to review and change the mode of administering the law in the County and State Supreme Courts. These are just a few of many assignments and the records will show his job was always wisely and well administered.

More than Israel Morey's service to his adopted state, however, he must be fondly remembered for his many services to his town and neighbors. We know in times of economic stress, when some of his fellowmen were not able to provide too well for their women and children, Morey was more than ready to provide a share of grain or other food without hope of recourse. His affluence, personally, was not always so, however, as we find a letter to Eleazor Wheelock in 1765 with respect to a note Morey had endorsed for a friend who was subsequently unable to meet the term and Morey was forced to forego his obligation. He wrote "I know not what to write you about that note of Wm. Hinkley's. I would be glad to pay you if I Cold but Cannot at present...." But as the years passed his personal wealth increased and his acts of kindness were many. Let it not be assumed, however, that he was not a rigid business man if the situation demanded, as to him an honest debt was one to be paid or his interest properly settled. This is evidenced by some correspondence regarding a debt to him of a fellow soldier. One Captain Wood had apparently foregone a debt and Morey appealed to his commanding officer for any help he could give in having the matter settled to his satisfaction. He wrote in 1787 to Major John Barnum; "Sir: I am thankful to your assistance to Cap't Wood in my affairs, want you to help him, further will pay you for all trouble. I want to get ye debt secure on best terms I can, if Bill will leave ye Deed with you I am secured ye debt and set his name on ye back of his obligation for his father and David and leave that with you I will release his body. I am your humble

servant Israel Morey." Did he perhaps feel this was too harsh and Captain Wood still deserved some help? We find a postscript: "If Capt'n Wood wants anything on expenses, I will ante. I. M."

We have seen the part Morey played in the early development of the town: building the first grist and saw mills, having the first ferry across the Connecticut, a member of the Governor's committee to lay out the original town plots, the first to assist in the planning and building of roads, and particularly his part in planning and erecting the proper meeting place for the worship of God. His whole philosophy seemed to lay in a simple remark once made about the worship of the Lord, his faith and belief in the powers of One greater than himself and a person's obligation to regularly attend to such worship. In an argument about a meeting house and Church, he said "no man was ever made sick by going to meeting."

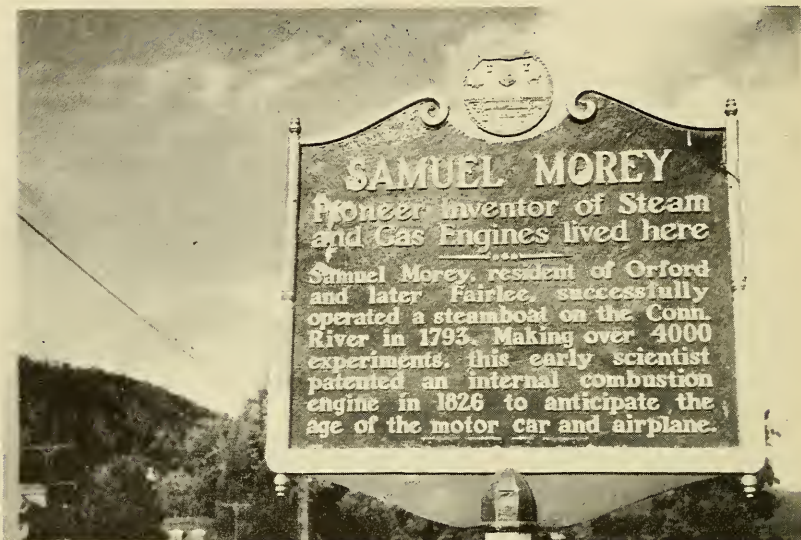
A man such as Israel Morey, honest, dependable yet independent, God-fearing, friendly and just, it seems, was ordained to have a family whose works would all be for the common good; and Fairlee was indeed fortunate that to her their works have been dedicated during the memory of man. His oldest child, Israel Morey, Junior, born in Hebron, was to become a major in the United States Army during the Revolutionary War. His service, although not distinguished, was honorable and he preferred to live a quiet life as landowner and farmer. Of particular interest to us, however, is that he had a son, George who built the present home of Everett Perkins on Main Street, it being known as the old Kibbey house, Mrs. Amelia Kibbey being the daughter of George Morey. Of Israel's second son, Samuel, we will forego comment at this time. His third son, a baby of few weeks when the eventful trip was taken by Israel Morey and his wife, Martha, in 1766, was named Moulton. His lot was to follow the law, graduating from Dartmouth College and later to become an associate justice of the Vermont Supreme Court. Of the remaining children little is known. They were all born in Orford and were named Darius, Martha, Sarah, and William Pitt.

As Israel Morey is remembered as the founder, perhaps, of Fairlee, it is his son, Samuel, to whom the larger honors have been given and Time has carved his deeds in the pages of history. Holder of many patents, truly inventor of the first practical steam engine in this country and of the even more important gas engine, and yet scoffed at by the mass for years for his advances to the causes of public good in the transportation field, the life of Samuel Morey has been amply written about in such fine works as "Captain Samuel Morey, the Edison of His Day" by Mrs. Katherine Goodwin of Fairlee, "Samuel Morey" by George Carter of Manchester, New Hampshire, and a thoroughly-prepared paper by John Davis, formerly of Fairlee and a scholar of Moreyana. It seems only necessary, therefore, for the purposes of this book to review in brief the highlights of the argu-

ment as to who invented the steam engine and add whatever other material may be of interest of perhaps a more informal nature and Morey's relation to the town and its people.

It is admitted that the invention of the steam engine was not a definite happening, but more the gradual development of ideas by several. The propulsion of boats by steam had been tried for centuries, but our interest centers around the activities of Robert Fulton, John Fitch, and Samuel Morey, the three leading contenders, shall we say, for the honors in this country. John Fitch of Windsor, Connecticut and he has his very loyal supporters in that section of the country, made a claim to having designed a boat run by steam as early as 1785. In 1790 he ran a boat on the Delaware River and attained a speed of about seven miles an hour. The boat was propelled by paddles arranged in vertical sets at the side, but it proved to be highly impractical and the investors in the scheme lost their money and "Poor John Fitch" became a penniless and forgotten soul. The claim of Robert Fulton has, of course, been the one usually recognized in the pages of history to be the correct one. This was undoubtedly due to a great extent to the political connections of his friends and co-worker Chancellor Robert Livingston. We know both of these men spent the years between 1786 and 1806 in England and France, where some of their experiments were being carried on. However, Fulton had obtained full rights to all steam transportation on the waterways of New York state and Morey was refused the right to try his boat on a commercial basis in that state. He knew of Fulton and by correspondence and one contact with Livingston, an offer was made to buy the patents that Morey had obtained. His price was refused and the deal was not consummated. It is felt by many that in turn Fulton illegally used many of Morey's ideas, resulting in the "Clermont," which has been regarded as the first boat to be propelled by steam. This was in 1807.

What of Samuel Morey during these years? It is easy to picture him studiously at work on his many inventions in his workshop just west of "Bonny Vale" and no doubt working on many occasions with his brother Moulton on some intricate problem. His love was engines and he was convinced they could be made to propel boats by steam. It is true he was listed in Walton's Register for 1782 as a carpenter, and had a sawmill, located on the outlet across from Verne Batchelder's home. Not that he was too busy to help his neighbor, being much like his father in his love for his fellowman, but his whole life was to be concentrated on his inventive powers. It is interesting to see many of the patents issued to Morey which are now in the possession of the Baker Library in Hanover. There one can read the first patent issued January 29, 1793 for turning a spit and signed by George Washington, or a later one signed by President John Adams in 1799 for working in a vacuum and furnishing a per-



SAMUEL MOREY'S GRAVE

petual supply of water to the boiler. Many others were granted, running the gamut from fireplaces to water wheels. Truly, as said, "the Edison of his day." But to return to his steam engine, to help in his work, Morey had dug from the lower end of Lake Morey, then called Fairlee Pond, a canal that ran to the river practically parallel to the present Lake road. That his invention was somewhat successful as early as 1793 is evidenced in a statement left by Reverend Cyrus Mann of Orford. He wrote in the "Boston Recorder," in speaking of his childhood memories; "The astonishing sight of this man ascending the Connecticut River between that place (Orford) and Fairlee in a little boat just large enough to contain himself and the rude machinery connected with the steam boiler and a handful of wood for a fire, was witnessed by the writer in his boyhood, and by others who yet survive. This was as early as 1793 or earlier." Of sentimental note is the story Morey chose a Sunday when the people who might ridicule him were in church. He saw fit to show his service to God in another fashion, likewise for the good of man. This actually was at least fourteen years before Fulton's trip on the Hudson.

As there has been considerable question as to whether or not Robert Fulton actually saw Morey in Orford, and for the succeeding developments in his trials, it is felt desirable to quote at length a letter Morey wrote to William Duer, one of his foremost believers in the fight against Fulton and a member of a committee to try and decide the rightful owner of the honors due. It is believed the most satisfactory defense of his claim should come from the man himself. The letter was as follows: "Orford, N. H. October 31, 1818. Wm. A. Duer—Sir: In answer to your inquiries relative to my experiments with steamboats many years ago at New York, I will state the facts as briefly as possible. As nearly as I can recollect it was as early as 1790 that I turned my attention to improving the steam engine, and in applying it to the purpose of propelling boats. I began by experiments in this vicinity on the Connecticut River. When my arrangements were sufficiently matured for exhibition, I went to New York and built a boat, and during three successive summers tried many experiments in modifying the engine and in propelling.

Sickness in my family calling me home, I had the boat brought to Hartford as a more convenient place, and there I ran her in the presence of many persons.

The next season having made sundry improvements in the engine I went to New York again, and applied the power to a wheel in the stern, by which the boat was impelled at the rate of five miles an hour. I invited the attention of Chancellor Livingstone, and he with Judge Livingstone, Mr. Edward Livingstone, Mr. Stevens and others went with me in the boat from the ferry as far as Greenwich and back, and they expressed great satisfaction at her performance and with the engine. Chancellor Livingstone requested me to continue my

endeavors to devise a better mode of propelling and I continued my experiments through the summer, encouraged by his promise, which was to give me a considerable sum provided I succeeded in making a boat run eight miles an hour. He offered me at that time for what I had done seven thousand dollars for the patent right on the North River and to Amboy but I did not deem that sufficient and no bargain was made. I never received anything from him.

Being desirous of devising a more effectual mode of propelling, I continued my exertions and as I had been sickly in New York, I went to Bordentown on the Delaware in June 1797, and there constructed a steamboat, and devised the plan of propelling by means of two wheels, one on each side. The shaft ran across the boat with a crank in the middle, worked from the beam of the engine, with a shacklebed, (commonly so-called), which mode is in principle the same as that now used in the large steamboats. I found that my wheels answered the purpose very well, and better than any other mode that I had tried, and the boat was openly exhibited in Philadelphia. From that time I considered every obstacle removed, and no difficulty remaining, or impediment existing, to the construction of steamboats on a large scale, and I took out patents for my improvements. The notoriety of these successful experiments enabled me to make very advantageous arrangements with Dr. Allison and others, to carry steamboats into effectual operation; but a series of misfortunes to him and others concerned soon after deprived them of the means of prosecuting this design, defeating their purpose and disappointed my expectations, but I did not wholly relinquish the pursuit from time to time during improvements on the engine.

I recollect to have had repeated conversations with Chancellor Livingstone and Fulton on the subject. The Chancellor once visited me at this place and at his request and expense, I went once to see him at Claremont. I never had any doubt but that I had a right to take out a patent for the application of two wheels to a steamboat, and have often told both Mr. Livingstone and Mr. Fulton that I had. To the latter I once asserted this right on board his steamer with him, nor could I ever see the propriety or justice of Chancellor Livingstone having an exclusive right to steamboats in the State of New York, merely on account of the suspension of the efforts of Fitch and Co. when it was perfectly familiar to him that at much labor and expense and the employment of years devoted to the pursuit. I had actually succeeded, so that nothing was wanted to carry this mode of navigation into effect, but pecuniary means; especially when it is considered that I actually held patents relating to the subject at that time, and of which the legislature of New York do not seem to have been informed. I have often made passage on steamboats and do not see in their construction any new principle; and it seems peculiarly hard that the originator of these improvements, by which Messrs.

Livingstone and Fulton were enabled principally to succeed, should have had his rights overlooked and himself excluded from the use of them on the very waters where many of his experiments were made. I am, etc. Samuel Morey."

There is Morey's own story, told by the pen of a man broken in spirit, deprived of his own, and probably even more, lost in the haze of doubt as to the sincerity of his fellowman in whom he had always placed unbounding faith. As he wrote, he carried on his experiments in later years and was to build another boat, the "Aunt Sally" which he launched on the waters of Fairlee Pond about 1820. Legend is that as a result of Fulton's success and Morey's failure in having his work recognized, he sank his boat and engine in Fairlee Pond about 1824. The most complete report of an attempt to find the sunken boat is one of the New Hampshire Antiquarian Society which appointed two of its members, G. A. Curtis and Edward Howe, to conduct a search. This was done on October 27, 1874 and their report was that they talked to several people who might have known the true story and the location was agreed upon. It was said "the boat was sunk, by the enemies of Captain Morey, by filling it with stones," and it was believed the machinery was in it, at the north end of the lake "in about 18 feet of water" at a point just off the present Bonnie Oaks Inn property. On the other hand, Dr. Willard Hosford was the close friend and physician of Morey's and he took no stock in the story, believing Morey would have discussed it at some time with him. In later years John Davis, whose family lived at the head of the lake, stated that as a boy he had talked to Hepzibah Williams of Orford who told him that he and two other boys "piled stones into it and pushed it out thinking it would sink before it got 10 rods from shore, but it floated all the way up here and we watched it until it went down." Over the past several years other attempts to find the boat have been made, but to date these attempts have proven of no success, although the name of "Aunt Sally" has been immortalized in story and poem. But Time is often the great healer of wrongs, and it is encouraging to see the growing evidence in favor of Morey's claims by writers over the past two decades particularly. His hopes may have died with the man, but his legions of believers are becoming more vast, so that it is the hope of all followers of the truth and fairness that the dawn of the day when full credits and honors will be bestowed is not far off.

Samuel Morey lived most of his life in Orford in the house he had built for himself in 1789 on the Ridge, moving to Fairlee about 1838. However, his Fairlee interests were many for several years previous and as we know his workshop was built at the outlet to Fairlee Pond. Morey was also a business man, being the owner of several acres of wood lands around the lake, from which he cut and hauled lumber to his mill. That he was also a merchant of sorts is shown

by a typical bill submitted to the town in 1807 for articles sold to the tavern: "1 pt. Cherry rum, 7 ½ cords hard wood @ 9, 40 lbs. salt @ 9, 2 ½ tons hay @ 54, 14 ½ lbs. tallow @ 9, 70 lbs. cheese @ ¾, ½ bbl. salt @ 10." His interests were not all business, however, as he had a great feeling for the mysteries of fish life. In later years he dammed the outlet behind "Bonny Vale" and made an extensive study of fish. Of a more sportive nature, in 1809 he took some pickerel from Rumney Pond in New Hampshire and stocked the lake, there having been largely only trout up to this time, and the Legislature in 1810 passed a law preserving the pickerel for two years.

That Samuel Morey was a man of some wealth was evident, being a large landowner through rights of inheritance from his father and subsequent purchases in his own right. His will indicates most of the land owned at about the time of his death at least was adjacent to the outlet from Fairlee Pond running from the south end to his saw mill and stretching easterly to the main road. We also know he was a large owner of wood lots around the lake and it is evident before his death that Morey had sold some of these properties or disposed of them in other ways. It is well known that Samuel Morey had the one daughter, Almira, who was married to Leonard Wilcox, in turn enabling the line of descendants shown on the family tree; but let us turn to his own will, dated March 21, 1843, for mention of another member of his family of which little is known. His will, in part, reads: "Be it remembered that I, Samuel Morey, of Fairlee, in the county of Orange and State of Vermont, being weak (sic) in body, but of perfect and Sound mind & memory, blessed be almighty God for the Same, do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following:— First I give and devise unto my grandchildren, Martha Wilcox, Samuel M. Wilcox, Mary Wilcox, Sarah G. Wilcox and unto Katherine Wilcox & George Wilcox all children of Leonard Wilcox and unto my adopted Child Ann Maria Southworth all my home farm with the appurtenances Situated in Said Fairlee, and containing all the land I own in house lots No. 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 129, 130, 131, & 133" He also left to his brother Moulton a yearly income of one hundred dollars as long as he should show need. That he was particularly fond of his adopted child would appear evident, as it was her future welfare he was thinking of November 3, 1841 when he deeded to Ann Maria Southworth the "north half of the house where I live with the cellar under the west part of the same and the chambers north of the chimney in the same with the right of using the South half of the back shed for keeping wood in."

And so as we visit Samuel Morey's grave in Orford, where he is buried with his wife and daughter, we think of the man, said to be like Daniel Webster in physique and intellect, interested in his friends and neighbors, successful as a businessman, lover of nature, creator

of much that was to help speed our country in its growth and prosperity, and yet denied the accolades of honor he so rightfully deserved.

Although the writer has not attempted to determine the complete geneology of the Morey family, the following will give the direct lineage of Israel and Samuel Morey, with whom we are particularly concerned:

George Morey, born in England and died about 1720 in Norton, Massachusetts, married Hannah Lewis in Bristol, Rhode Island, January 23, 1683.

Their son John, born October 3, 1684, married Margaret Linsford about 1706. Their oldest son Linsford was born in Bristol on June 21, 1708 and died in Lebanon, Connecticut in 1772 where he had married Sarah Dewey about 1728.

They had seven children of which the third child and first son was Israel, born May 27, 1735 and died in Orford on August 10, 1809. He married Martha Palmer (1733-1810) on July 14, 1757.

Their first child Israel died in infancy (July 9, 1758 - June 4, 1759). The next son was also named after his father and was born in Hebron June 10, 1760. He married Theodora Phelps and later Margaret McHurd. Samuel was the next child, born October 23, 1762 and he died in Fairlee on April 17, 1843. On December 1, 1785 he married Hannah Avery and they had the one daughter Almira, who married Leonard Wilcox of Orford.

The other children of Israel and Martha Morey were Moulton, born in Hebron July 4, 1765, married Patty Frissell and died in Orford February 7, 1854; Martha who was the first Morey child, born in Orford December 20, 1767. She married Samuel Bissell and died in Columbus, Ohio, June 1, 1820. Then came Darius, August 3, 1771 - July 23, 1825. He married Nancy Thyng and died in Fairlee. William Pitt Morey was born June 23, 1774, married Elizabeth Emery and died in Fairlee July 18, 1807. The last child was Sarah who was born in Orford November 6, 1777, married Dr. Edward Tudor and died in Middlebury, Vermont.

Of particular current interest is the fact that the direct line of Samuel Morey still exists. It has descended to Ritchie Willard of Hartford, Vermont who is Samuel Morey's great, great, great-grandson, his great-grandmother being Mary Wilcox, the daughter of Almira Morey Wilcox.

Lake Morey

KNOWN throughout the length and breadth of our land, Lake Morey is not only a means of recreational and financial return to the people of Fairlee, but the beloved "second home" of its many summer residents. Settled in the rural basin of Sawyer, Morey, and Echo mountains, it has been called a "Swiss lake in Vermont" and its beauties written of in poetry, song and story. Whether you have been coming to this lake for many years or have just arrived as a first-year camper, its beauty and restfulness will remain with you forever. It is for this reason, perhaps, more than any other that such a large part of the summer residents are of families who have returned every year for two and three generations. It is a family lake and as such creates the loving ties that bind. It is because of this love, too, that so many of the seasonal residents have become a part of the town and share its interests and growth along with their neighbors. Although they are unable to take an active voting part in the welfare of Fairlee, it seems only true to say that its problems are the problems of the Lake people and its success their hope.

Although today the lake is encircled by a reasonably good macadam road, it does get bumpy and rough going in the Spring of the year. When its beauties for development were first discovered, it was reached only through a narrow wagon path that traversed the pine and birch woods on the west side. It was in 1888 that Mr. A. W. Kenny, a Chicago artist, saw the possibilities of this being a spot for the enjoyment of summer visitors. Being an artist, he was particularly impressed not only with the natural beauty of the lake and its surrounding hills, but especially with the natural water falls cascading down the hill into a pool surrounded by ferns and plants which were behind the site he picked for a cottage. This was known as Glen Falls and, although today some of its beauty has been let fall into decay as a result of the 1936 hurricane and development of a gravel pit by the State, it is still possible to remember its full

grandeur in years gone by. Throughout the past half century many couples have climbed its wooded slope, hand in hand, musing only of its beauty and their love for each other. Mr. Kenny built his cottage and called it "Birchmere" in 1888. It is now the center portion of the cottage until recently owned by Mr. Charles Wakefield and has kept its original name. Mr. Kenny was to conduct an art school here and we can assume the glories of Lake Morey graced the canvas of many hopeful creators of the painted picture. One of the interesting things about this cottage is its spiral staircase made entirely of birch wood and limbs, creating an unusually rustic effect. The artist was not to be alone, however, as this same year saw the building of the Glen Falls House by Mr. George Spear, brother of Mr. Anson Spear who lived in Fairlee until a few years ago; his widow still living in the family home at the south end of the Post road. We will hear more of the hostelry later, but it is interesting to note that from the first many saw the fine outlook for this as a summer resort. The next year saw a rapid growth on the west side. In the winter season Mr. George Winship, who owned a large tract, drew logs across the ice and started a development. On May 21, 1889 the town authorized completion of a road to run from the south end of the lake to the north on the west side. The Glen Falls House had its guests, one of whom was Mr. Charles Bracey, later to become a well-known photographer and the owner of Bracey's Pavilion in the pine grove at the foot of the lake. A friend of his, however, was to be the second cottage owner, Mr. Fred W. Bradford. Upon visiting Mr. Bracey, he realized the beauty of the spot and after bumping over the stump-filled road on a wagon driven by "Allie" Adams so that often the wagon just seemed to bump from one stump to the next, he decided to build next to the "Birchmere" to the north. This cottage was called "Gluckauf" or "Pleasant View" but was sold in 1898. Incidentally, mention should be made of another engine which is in the Morey exhibit in the Vermont State Museum. This was a rotary steam expansion engine which expands and exhausts twice with each revolution, and was invented by this same Mr. Bradford. Due to other business interests Mr. Bradford never developed this engine so it became a commercial product, but it was first tested with satisfaction by Captain Lucas on the "Gypsy." Because of this Fairlee background, you might say, it is felt worthy to mention this brain child of one of Lake Morey's older and very long time admirers.

At this same time Mr. Bracey built his first studio and the summer life of the lake had begun. With the completion of the road in 1889, the north end of the lake was also to see its start of construction. Mr. J. B. Peckett built "Cliff Mull" as it stands today owned by Mrs. Walter Gahagan, with the exception of the boat house which was built in 1894 by Mr. A. L. Blakely, a subsequent owner. This imposing structure was to remain "monarch of all she surveyed" until 1894 as



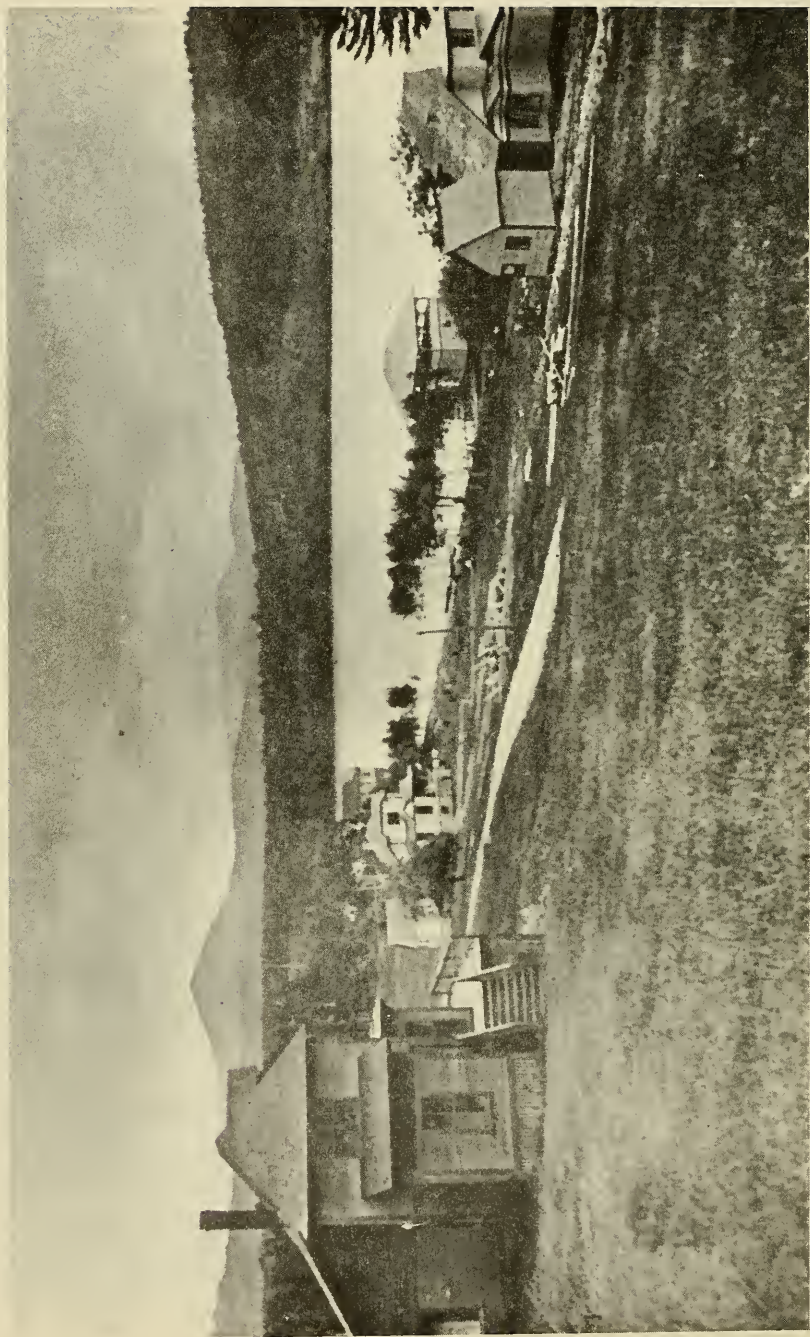
"BIRCHMERE" — FIRST COTTAGE ON LAKE MOREY



"GLUCKAUF" — SECOND COTTAGE

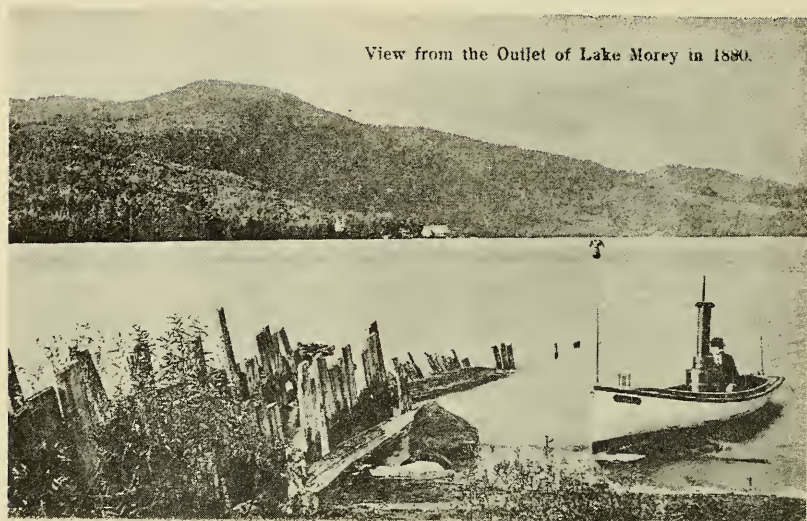
it stood on a prominent spot at the head of the lake. In that year Mr. Blakely moved one of the three cottages which Mr. Houghton had built across the road to the lake front and this was later bought by Mr. Walter Low and was the first of the Low cottages which now comprise "Breezy Beach." The other two cottages were to be moved across the road in the two following years. The future looked bright to others as well, as in 1889 Mr. S. S. Houghton, a wealthy Boston merchant, bought the Glen Falls House and also a large tract of land and began construction of fifteen cottages. The lumber for these was from his own tract on the east side and Mr. Houghton built what is now "Tallwood", "Highlands", and "Maples" to provide living quarters for his men who cut the lumber and hauled it across the ice where the construction was under way. In 1889 "Owls Nest" was built by Reverend L. P. Tucker and Reverend T. P. Frost constructed a summer house. The boom was on! The next few years saw steady work for many, whether it was lumbermen felling trees, road gangs laying out "the Houghton road," still a boundary line to the east of many cottage deeds, teamsters hauling the logs on the winter ice, or the carpenters putting up the finished product—all done for the future enjoyment of many over the years to come. In 1896 the Bradford newspaper was to carry the comment "the cottages are nearly full, there ought to be more." They were not only full, the people stayed as late as possible to enjoy the beauties of Fall on the hillsides and we find a clipping under date of November 6, 1896 "Mr. Bracey has left the lake and the birds of the air and beasts of the field are left in full possession." Among other large developers were Mr. George Chapman of Bradford who, in the early nineties, bought sixty acres of grove and forest on the west side from the Glen Falls Brook to the Kibbey farm and his wife was soon to buy on the southeast corner to the "small Octagon" which had been built by Mr. Houghton, near the present cottage of Dr. Ceresoli (1907), later moved (1896) across the ice to the pine grove and used by Mr. Bracey.

Possibly the best way to show the growth of the lake toward the turn of the century is to refer to a map made in 1898 giving the location of the cottages only ten years after Mr. Kenney first realized the possibilities and had built "Birchmere." Where possible any known change of name from the present is shown. Starting at the foot of Lake Morey was "Athenwood" which is now used by employees of the Lake Morey Inn. Next came "Rest-a-while" on the approximate site of "Sunny Shores." The hotel site was not to be occupied until 1910 when Mr. Kendall built the "Kaulin," but on this expanse of property were three cottages: "Big Octagon" (which burned in 1930), "Rosewood," and "Nessmere." Across the road about the present location of the office for Camp Wynona was the small "Octagon" that was later moved across the ice to the pine grove by Mr. Bracey. Continuing on



BREEZY BEACH — CIRCA 1900

the lake shore was "Wildwood," now known as "Chelsea Lodge," and is not to be confused with the present "Wildwood" on the west side, which name was borrowed for sentimental reasons by the present owner. Then came "Lake Morey," now called "Ding Hao," and "Whip-poor-will" as it is still named today. A short walk would then take you to "The Maples" and its neighbors "Tiz-Ours" (original name unknown), "Idlewood," and "Birch Lodge." From this point until about the present location of Bonnie Oaks was undeveloped until a few years later. At this farther point was the Martin cottage called "Fairview," but it is no longer in existence. Next came the Lake Morey Farm owned by George Sampson where summer boarders were gladly welcomed. This had been the former home of the present Davis family and later became "Aloha Manor" as we know it now. At the northwestern corner was the Renfrew property which is now the barn and office buildings of Camp Lanakila. From its majestic location and commanding a southern sweep of the lake was then "Cliff Mull" with its boat house as it stands today. Its neighbor to the west was the Blakely property, soon to be bought by the George Low family of Bradford who were to become one of the oldest families on Lake Morey. At this time there was "Breezy Beach" now owned by Carroll Low, the boat house built by Ami and Selah George which has recently been remodeled and moved back from the shoreline by Kenneth Low, and "Pine Lodge" owned by F. G. Eberhardt. The present cottage of George Low called "Lowloch" was still across the road but was moved shortly after. Next was "Rosedale" now owned by Herbert Scott, with its nearest neighbor on the south being "Echo Dale" owned by G. L. Winship. This property, along with the cottage "Chattanooga" of Reverend E. L. Gulick immediately next, are both now owned by Camp Aloha. On the shore front were then two cottages, unnamed, where are now "Lakenwild" and "Fern Cliff." About the present sites of the Wark's summer house and Kerkof property were three unnamed cottages, although apparently one is now known as "Arajeb." Continuing down the west side, were the Glen Falls House on the point, the studio of Charles Bracey and a cottage built by George Jackson, all of which subsequently burned. A few steps farther was the second cottage to be built on the lake, that of Fred Bradford, called "Gluckauf," later known as "Anse D'Entree" and today as "Lakeview." Still on its original site is the oldest cottage "Birchmere" with its neighboring cottage and boat house of Mr. Facey, the latter being burned some years later and replaced by the present year-round house of Mrs. Beverly Beamis. Then was "Owl's Nest," only recently (1954) burned. There was a short gap then until "Pine Rest," the present year-round home of Mrs. Steven Darling. Across the road were "Hillside" and "Eyrrie" where now is located "Undercliff." At the southern point of the lake in the pine grove was the "Pavilion" owned then by Mrs. M. L. Chapman, one of the real developers of lake property,



MR. FRED BRADFORD IN LAUNCH "EAGLE"



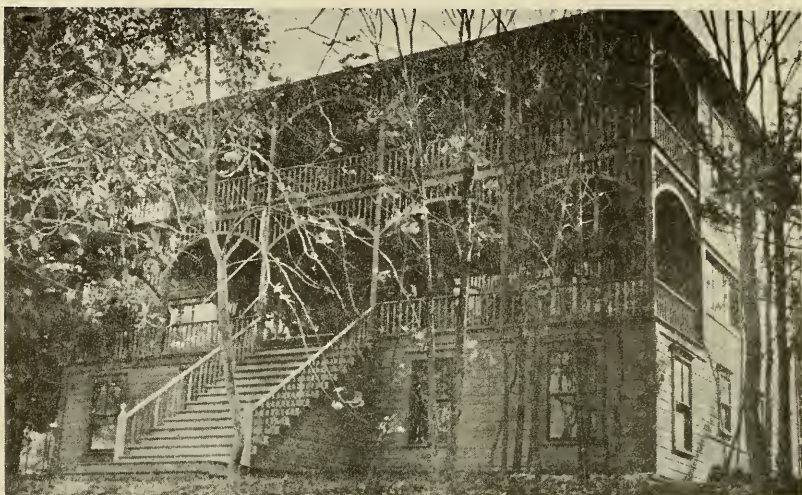
THE "GYPSY" — CAPTAIN ED LUCAS

but which had been originally built in 1887 by Mr. Rogers for public entertainment and enjoyment. Away from the water side were also several homes of townspeople, such as Captain Lucas, and the Adams family, some of which are still standing.

By 1898 the lake as we know it today had largely taken form. Among other cottages to be built was a new large one by Mr. Fred Bradford who had built the second cottage. This was called "Mudway-aushka," next south of "Highlands," and was sold in 1904 to the late Mr. Alfred Watson, although the cottage is still owned by his estate. Realizing the prospects of the east side, Mr. Bradford gave some of his land for a road on that side and bought for speculation fourteen lots. One of the annual bits of entertainment is the argument as to which side of Lake Morey is preferable. You can be assured both sides have their ardent supporters and the viewpoints have not changed since an advertisement of Mr. Bradford's in 1898 which read: "lots for cottage purposes 20 cents to \$2.00 front foot—favor east side—one mile from depot—not very steep to road level—much cooler in morning for doing cooking, etc.—beautiful sunsets." This is answered by the west side adherents by the undeniable argument that the nights are cooler for sleeping and the moon coming up over Morey Mountain is a beauty none can surpass. May the strife go on for many years and generations! The next decade was to see continued growth, and although the general outlines had been made, from 1905 to 1910 many of the open stretches were to be filled in; the southeast corner was to see the cottages now owned by the Bugbees, the Hazens, the Mallarys, and the Jackmans; across the lake, the Babbitts, Wards, and Darlings; the growth around "Target Rock" at the northeast.

Lake Morey, however, is more than cottages, camps, or hotels. Much more. It is people! It is believed quite unique to find a lake which has maintained the annual visit of so many families over a period of so many years. A few examples are several members of the Low family who first came to the lake in 1901; the family of Reverend E. L. Gulick, of whom we will read more later, arrived in 1897, the Warren Bugbees in 1904; the Herbert Millers in 1910; the Leroy Babbitts in 1914; and many others of forty and more years possession. To these people Lake Morey means so much more than just a cottage for the summer; it means days or weeks of being with people they know and love, a countryside of clean woods and plants to enjoy, a lake as blue as the sky to swim in or sail upon, and pleasant memories to carry until their return.

All of these things are not for just the cottage owner and his family, however, as the lake has fine accommodations for those who prefer to spend their vacation in hotel style. That the beauties of Lake Morey would attract the summer visitor in great quantities was the dream and hope of George Spear, the brother of Anson Spear, when



"KAULIN" — PREDECESSOR OF LAKE MOREY INN



LAKE MOREY INN

he built the "Glen Falls House" in 1888. It was a large summer hotel-type of structure of thirty rooms located on the promontory known as Middle Point jutting out on the east side of the lake, just north of Bracey's studio. The following year it was bought by Mr. S. S. Houghton, who was to undertake the first real development of Lake property. Its success was immediate, but for various reasons the management changed hands on several occasions. Some of the more prominent men to run it were Mr. Bracey in 1900, having followed a term of ownership by a Bradford syndicate when it was managed by Captain Lucas and his wife about 1897. The House had its private boat landing, pier, steamboat and boathouse, at the edge of a large picnic area enjoyed by many. Another happy season was planned for the summer of 1912 and had gotten off to an auspicious start with the boat pageant and fireworks display on Independence Day. The night of the 29th was to pass into history and the fireplace allowed to burn out to ashes; or at least that was the hope. In some manner, however, during the night a stray spark had gotten free on its dangerous mission and the early hours of July 30th saw the hotel an inferno. Four people died as a result of burns or injuries and the ten o'clock train to Hanover took the injured to the New Hampshire hospital. The hotel was never rebuilt and the point remained a privately-owned property until 1956 when Reginald Cramer built the present tea room and developed the point into a restful picnic area and recreation park.

During these years development had also taken place in the pine grove at the southern end of the lake. In the Town Meeting of 1890 it was voted to permit Nathaniel Rogers "to establish a Victualling Houcse to be known as "Pond View Pavillion on Houghton land to accommodate public with provision and all such drinks as legally sold." Actual building had been done in 1887 and it was soon sold to Mr. Chapman of Bradford, who developed a large tract on the southeast corner of the lake. In 1898 George Kendall, who was later to build the "Kaulin," bought the grove property and had plans for a 35-room hotel which was to be ready the following spring. Until this time the "Pavilion" had been used largely by picnic parties and was a large rustic type open shed. Mr. Kendall's plans were not to be realized, as he sold his interest in the "Pavilion" to Charles Bracey, who moved the "Small Octagon" cottage across the ice into the grove, moving the "Pavilion" some to the south, where it was used for dance parties. In his new studio Mr. Bracey conducted a small gift business, candy concession, and his photographic business. About 1912, the "Pavilion" was again sold, this time to Will Griffin. He carried on the various small commercial enterprises until 1915, when fire brought to an end the life of a pioneer development on the lake. , The largest hotel on the lake is the present Lake Morey Inn. In 1905 the town voted to allow Mr. George Kendall exemption from



ORIGINAL PAVILION — PINE GROVE



LAKE ROAD NEAR PRESENT RUTLEDGE INN

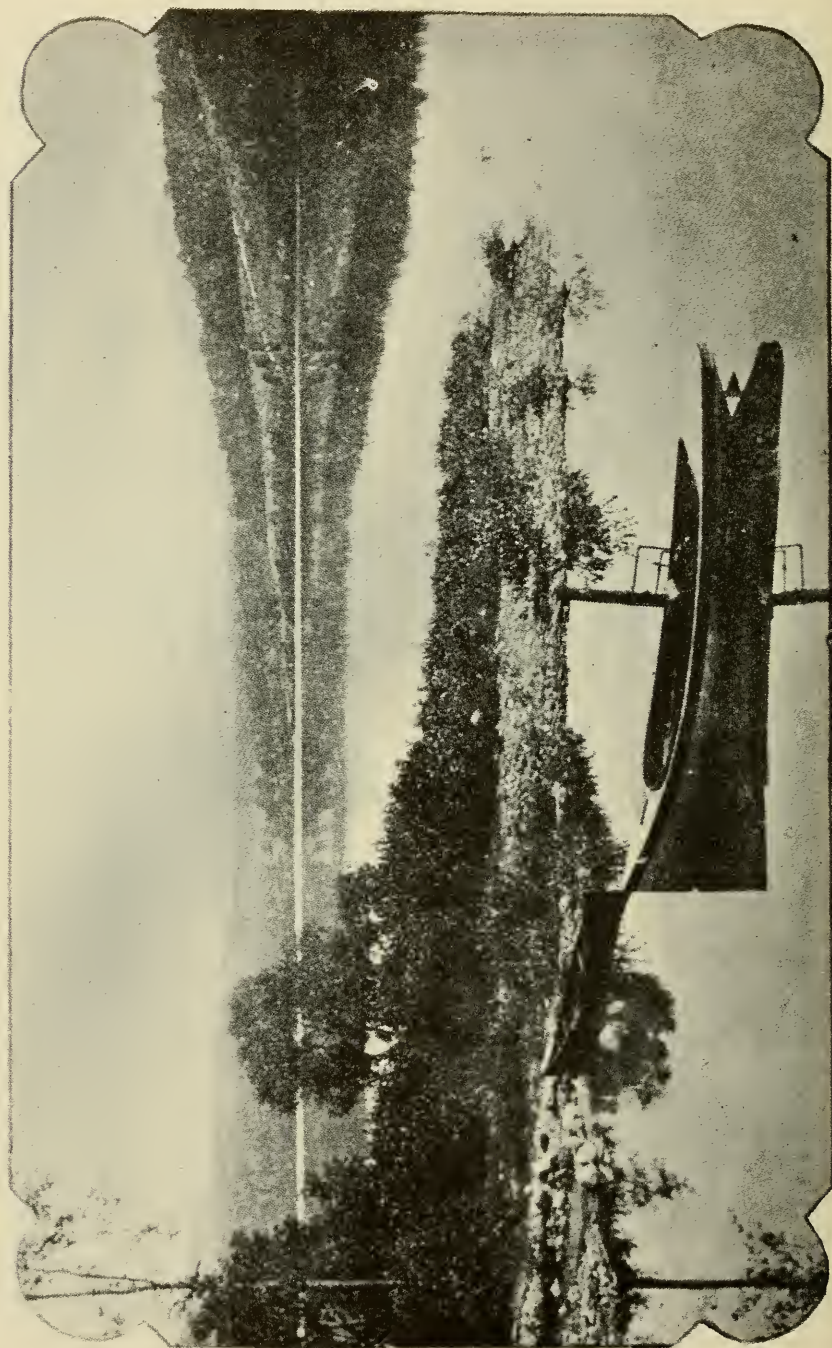
taxes for five years if he would build a hotel to cost at least \$8,000. This vote was to be questioned by the State of Vermont, apparently on the grounds of being discriminatory. In any event, Mr. Kendall built as planned in 1910 and named the building "Kaulin." It consisted of the center portion approximately of the present main building. Because of his personal management and extensive publicity of the advantages of Lake Morey and the town, Mr. Kendall was to see his enterprise grow with the years. In 1918 he sold to Mr. Robert Cookman and subsequent owners were Mr. Alfred Hall (1929), Mr. W. P. Lyle (1938) and, the present owner, Mr. Frank Ward in 1947. In 1920 the name was changed to "Lake Morey Club" and to "Lake Morey Inn" in 1924. In 1934 the stables were enlarged to their present size and in 1926 a major change was made by adding the annex.

The south end of the lake was not alone, however, in the trend to provide places for the tourist and hotel guest. As early as 1905 a Mr. Crocker bought the George Sampson farm at the head of the lake and took vacationers in his "Lake Morey House." This same farm was the home of James Davis and his sister Mrs. Rosaline Ordway, who still lives in Fairlee, and the house is now and has been since, the site of "Aloha Manor," a vacation spot for families, run more or less in conjunction with the other camps on the lake run by the Gulick family.

A much larger hotel which has grown from a small beginning is "Bonnie Oaks." This was originally owned by Mr. O. N. Renfrew who had a large farm tract at the north end of the lake. Part of the land and a small cottage owned by a Mr. Martin and called "Fairview" was bought by Dr. E. H. Page in 1916 and he started the business at that time. Time was to necessitate many additions and today it is a large group of individual bungalows with a main dining room. In 1944 Dr. Page sold his interests to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stewart who maintained ownership until the spring of 1954 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Borden Avery, its present owners.

About 1910 "Bungalo Inn" was established. This was a small group of three or four cottages situated at the lake's edge on the present site of "Twin Gables" about midway on the west side. Fire was to terminate this enterprise in November 1916 and since then the land has become private cottage property.

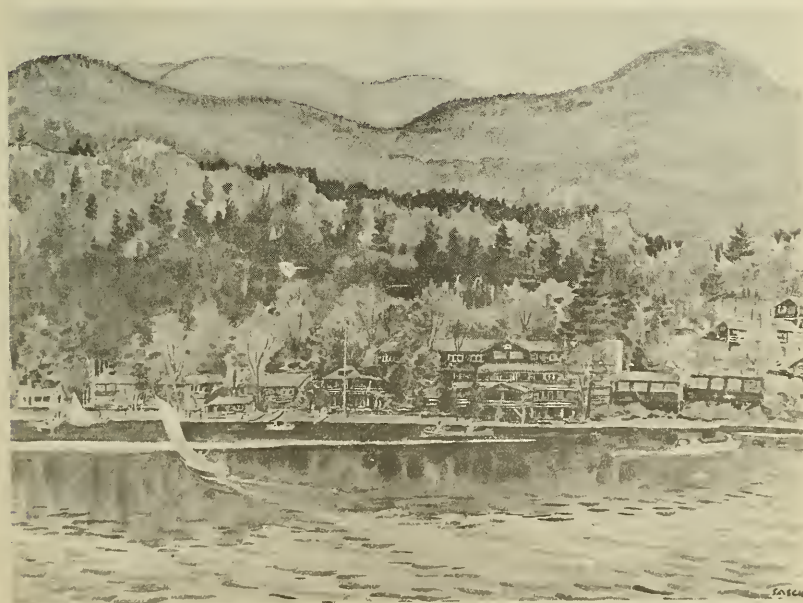
Although it can be said the meals served at all the present hotels are good, for one who perhaps puts food at the head of his list of vacation requirements, the answer was started in rather an accidental way in 1917. Mrs. William Rutledge had occasionally taken a boarder or two but never considered it a serious vocation. In that year, however, there was a small fire at "Kaulin" and in her neighborly way she agreed to help on the overflow. Her reputation as a cook was to grow and grow until by 1931 the few cottages they had with meager eating facilities were wholly outgrown. In that year with husband



MIDDLE POINT — MR. FRED BRADFORD'S BOAT



RUTLEDGE INN



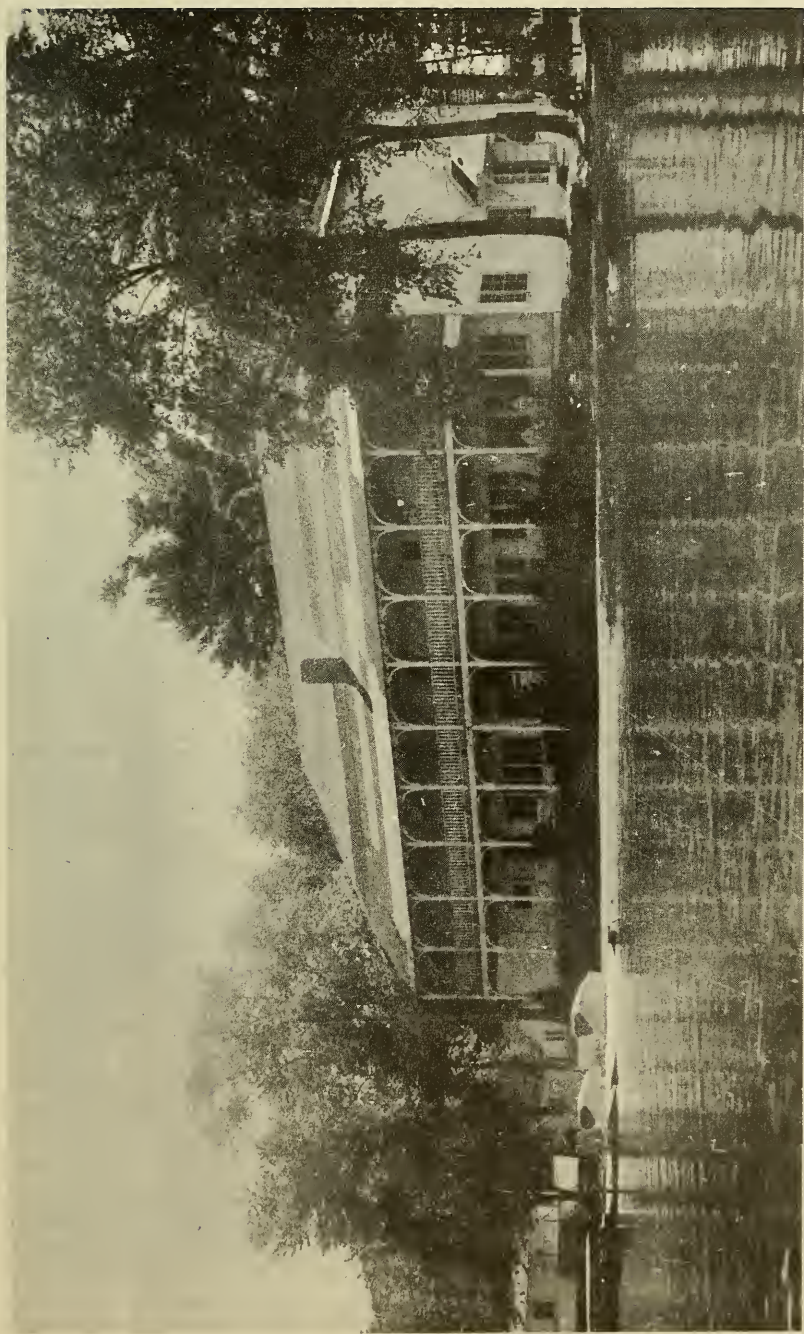
BONNIE OAKS INN

"Bill" she built the present dining room and the menu with a choice of all you want including over thirty desserts has become famous in many scattered towns and cities ever since. By 1947 the burden was getting heavy and it was decided Bill and Ruth should retire from their labors. Complete retirement for these two was impossible, however, as even after the business was sold to Gladys and Jack Webb, Mrs. Rutledge was to be found in the kitchen at the break of day busy helping with desserts, or Bill was chasing a meaty chicken to prepare for the festive board at "Rutledge Inn."

And so the requirements of the summer guest have been and still are met with a degree of complete satisfaction from all angles. Whether you wish a family style of comfort with bountiful meals, a more secluded but friendly service during your stay, or the more formal hotel type of relaxation from the cares of a bustling city and its daily problems of helter skelter activities, the guest houses of Lake Morey can meet your needs. Rest, relaxation, games or whatever you desire are all offered with a personal touch and desire to satisfy that is not always evident in the more commercial hostelry.

Although the guest houses on the lake offer many types of recreation from ping pong, golf and horseback riding to walks around the beautiful shores of Lake Morey, the "Casino" at the south end has served its purpose over the many years of its existence. It was built in 1906 by Guy Densmore and originally known as "Densmore's Casino." Mr. Densmore and his two sisters Bertha and Edna had a small orchestra that played at the "Glen Falls House" and the "Pavilion" and believed Morey a good place for a refined dance hall. It was advertised as the "new pleasure palace" and had dancing three nights a week with a sacred concert on Sundays. Although Mr. Densmore was to live until 1954, he did not stay at the Casino long after it was built and it was to change management many times until it was bought in 1930 by the present owner, Miss Laura Phillips, and her father, William. Over recent years the bowling alley has been discontinued and Miss Phillips has added a tearoom and small cottages for rent.

The beauties of Lake Morey have first been sighted by many as they arrived in their early years of life at one of the camps on the lake shore. Although not as many as on Lake Fairlee, the camps have played a vital part in the life of the community for many years and to them not only are returns of a more commercial nature due in large part, but many are the rewards of the spiritual guidance they have left on all who have come to know their work and leaders. In 1896 Reverend E. L. Gulick bought a large tract of land on the west and northern corner of the lake, and in 1905 Camp Aloha for girls was started. The attendance that year was 18 but the spirit and loving care of Reverend Gulick and his devoted wife were to see their venture grow year by year until now the average enrollment is over 115. In 1915 their next major step was to be the establishment of a camp



THE CASINO

for younger children at Lake Fairlee to be called "Aloha Hive." In 1923 further growth was possible at Morey with a camp for boys, named "Lanakila," the attendance being about equal to its sister camp. They still felt the need to provide for families and not just the younger generations, which led to "Aloha Manor," where entire families can stay and play as a family. In all their camps and their activities it can be said a spirit of doing what is right and good for the town and the people pervades, and the kindness and beautiful spirit of Mrs. Gulick will long be a shining light in the history of Fairlee and Lake Morey.

On the east side of the lake, almost directly across from Camp Aloha, Mr. and Mrs. David Conant opened "Hokomoko" camp for girls, in the summer of 1910. The one building was started in November 1909 and was particularly noticeable because of its over three hundred feet of wide porches. This camp was said to be named after an old Indian Chief of the Abenaki tribe that was supposed to camp at times on the lake shore. There may be some question as to this as there are no records showing any Indians in Fairlee, their travels having stopped nearer Newbury. The camp was maintained until 1936 when it was closed for good and allowed to stand idle until the house was bought in 1951 by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Saladino and now is their home, although considerably remodeled into modern-style architecture.

In 1914 Mr. George Kendall built Camp Wynona on the south-eastern corner of the lake. Wyona is said to be the name of an Indian girl who, being disappointed in love, threw herself off the Palisades behind Lake Morey. Another camp for girls, it was run as a private enterprise until 1941, when it was acquired by the Massachusetts Council of Girl Scouts from Mrs. Robert Cookman and is still maintained by that organization.

With these facilities available, many hundreds of girls and boys are able to enjoy the beauties of Lake Morey each year. They all are of first rank in the camping field and add much to the life of the town and vacationers with exhibitions of their skills in the water and canoe-handling, contributing in their way to make Fairlee a finer place to live.

Of a more public nature, mention must be made of Fairlee Community Beach which became available in 1948. It had long been felt that the town should take some measure to provide a proper bathing facility for its own children and the Town Meeting of March 1947 voted the creation of the Recreation Council. The same year Mr. Frank Ward gave to the town a parcel of land next to the outlet which could be used as a beach. The first year was successful enough to encourage the work of the Council and the following June the adjoining property on which the ice house was located was purchased for \$8,000 and a further \$1,450 was voted to create a suitable beach and



CASINO — BRACY'S STUDIO — PAVILION



GLEN FALLS HOUSE — LAKE MOREY

bathhouse. It was also voted to extend the use of the beach to the school children of Orford. Since its inception the beach has become a marked success and now has a full-time swimming instructor, with the season ending in a display of water and swimming events participated in by the town children.

As the children of town and the lake disport themselves gaily at the public beach or individual cottages, so do their fathers and brothers—yes, mothers and sisters too—spend many hours trying to emulate Isaac Walton. Fishing has always been a major pastime on these waters and we know as early as 1809 Samuel Morey brought pickerel from Rumney, New Hampshire to stock Lake Morey. Several times funds have been voted by the town or the Lake Morey Protective Association to provide for stocking of trout and bass and, although some spend hour after hour waiting for that telltale nibble, to many the day's end shows a handsome "catch." One report of this was worthy of public notice when the "Bradford Opinion" of June 9, 1905 wrote "Dick Hannaford, the champion fisherman, caught 67 fish, pickerel and perch, within 5 hours one day last week, averaging from $\frac{3}{4}$ —3 pounds apiece."

Proper enjoyment of the lake has, however, at times raised its consequent problems. One has been the proper control of the height of the water, largely because of the possible damage that might occur with the winter ice. Fishing through the ice is fun and enjoyed by many, but the pressures against cottages and shore lines can be serious.

In 1898 the State made an appropriation to install a proper outlet at the south end. It was hoped by some townspeople that a suitable drive and walk could be installed at the lake's edge at the same time, but this was not done. Further appropriations were made in 1908. The question of water control then became a question of law, some believing it was the responsibility of the town, others of the State. In 1918 the Supreme Court of the State ruled it to be a State water body and since then the maintenance of the outlet has been under State control, although certain interested citizens assume cleaning it out. It was feared for some years that a severe storm of certain conditions might wash out the outlet and finally in 1953 another appropriation was made, resulting in the present new and larger concrete outlet which should serve for many years.

Another problem was to be the use of fast speed boats on the water. With so many children involved, it was felt their safety was of prime importance and in 1933 Reverend H. L. Kelton, then the Fairlee legislative representative, sponsored a bill restricting speed to fifteen miles an hour on certain small lakes in the state, Morey being one of them. The bill was passed and it is generally believed to be one of the foremost factors in the splendid freedom from accidents the lake has had for many years.

Speed has not been a requirement of fun, however, so far as boats

have been concerned. Although today it is largely the younger members with their outboard motors or sleek little sailing craft enjoying the breezes under the clear blue skies of August, many years ago witnessed spectacular races between the rowboats and steam vessels of some of the cottage owners. For several years after the turn of the century, Independence Day saw great activity on Lake Morey. The cottages were decorated with bunting, lighted brilliantly at dusk with Japanese lanterns and private parties enjoyed talking over the events of the day. There had been the colorful parade of almost fifty decorated boats around the lake, to be followed by the spirited rowboat race between the more competitive. The high point was the steamboat race and, although the odds were usually in favor of the experienced Captain Lucas, the hopes of victory were always bright for Messrs. Bracey, Aldrich, and Dr. Worthen. It is lamentable that such celebrations as these had to come to an end but with the removal of some of the parties involved, the lessening of jollity perhaps caused by the first World War, and the normal changes brought about by the passage of time, such was to be the result. The past several years have seen only the usual holiday crowd of bathers and fishermen, interrupted only by the sound of an occasional fire cracker or Roman candle display.

Although the writer has avoided in most cases giving any biographical sketches in this history, it is believed an exception must be made in the case of a man who contributed so much to the life of Lake Morey and the pleasures of its summer visitors, not alone through his business enterprises, but through his character and the fact that one knew him. Such a man was Edgar Lucas, lovingly known as "Captain Lucas." The captain and his wife, Amy, a native of Orford, came to Fairlee about 1888, having been in the hotel business in Newbury. His activities on the Lake were first to be confined to running the dining room at Rogers' Pavilion in the grove and later a short period as manager of the Glen Falls House. The real life of this remarkable character was not to start, however, until about 1898 when he became the master of a passenger boat owned by Mr. S. S. Houghton which had been shipped to Fairlee on two flat cars from Boston. Soon Lucas bought the boat, called "The Pearl," and ran his own excursions around the lake for several years.

The popularity of the man and his boat necessitated a bigger and more commodious vessel, resulting in the purchase of the "Gypsy," a boat soon to echo with the shouts and laughter of children and their parents as they enjoyed the trips around the lake shore guided by the steady hand of the kindly gentleman quietly puffing on his constant pipe, dreaming his dreams, thinking good of the worst, and loved by all. A capacity of fifty was still too small and in October 1915 the "Gypsy" was sold to a Mr. Tibbetts of Lake Fairlee, where it was to do service for several years, gradually being forgotten by its

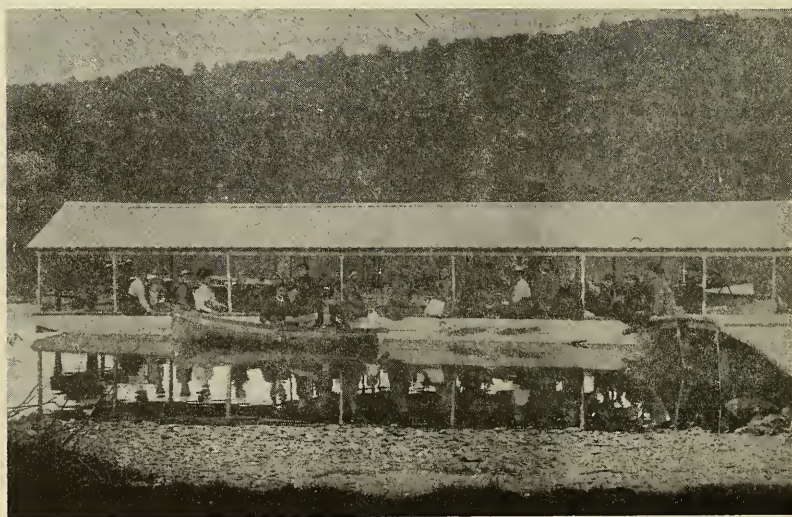
**CAPT. EDGAR O. LUCAS**

old friends on Lake Morey.

Before the sale, however, Captain Lucas had begun work on the boat that was such a familiar sight on the lake until his death in June 1930. At his home, which was on the corner across from the golf caddy house, and no longer exists due to a fire, he had a small saw-mill and workshop. Here in February 1915 a boat built of cypress, forty-five feet long so it would carry one hundred and fifty passengers, the "Misitwalkit" was begun. For many years it was fired by a wood-burning boiler, replaced some time later by a gasoline engine. His trips were regular for which the fee was twenty-five cents for a trip or a season ticket, entitling you to unlimited trips, was available for the outrageous price of one dollar. It is fitting, perhaps, that this boat which came to mean so much in the happiness of so many should have been launched on Memorial Day 1915. It was to serve the captain well and until its unnatural retirement in 1930 missed only two days of its usual rounds both due to broken shafts. The high spot in each trip was the ceremonial blowing of the whistle in front of Echo Mountain with a succession of blasts and the quiet listening of all on board for the several echoes that were sure to come.

This chapter in the history of Lake Morey came to a sad end June 10, 1930, when the Master of all boat captains gave the final command to Edgar O. Lucas. He, with his wife who died in 1928, is buried in the Fairlee Cemetery. The "Misitwalkit" was sold to William Phillips almost immediately and for several years has been beached alongside the Casino. Its years of usefulness are over, but it still looks out on beautiful Lake Morey and may even have memories of the days it was the darling of all, guided by that lovable pipe-smoking gentleman sitting in the stern.

Although the summer colony at Lake Morey has as its chief purpose the enjoyment of a pleasant vacation away from the problems of maintaining a busy life in the work-a-day world, and perhaps the social obligations take precedence during the hours of the days and evenings, there is also a little more serious obligation they have assumed. With about twenty-five cottage owners shortly after the turn of the century, the idea that they had an obligation to protect as far as possible the beauties and health of the Lake caused them to form on October 16, 1907 the Lake Morey Association. At this meeting at Densmore's Casino a charter was drawn to "preserve the natural beauty of Lake Morey and its immediate surroundings, to safeguard the health and promote the interests of cottagers and property owners." To this day these remain the continued aims of the Association. The annual dues were fixed at one dollar and both Lake property owners and the townsmen who had an interest in the program were encouraged to join the fold. The first officers were: General W. H. Gilmore, president; Dr. Lewis Silver, vice-president; Irving A. Hazen, secretary and treasurer; Guy F. Densmore, Walter C. Low, H. F. Moore

**"GYPSY"****CAPT. LUCAS' "BARGE"**

and Mrs. K. W. Millican, executive committee. Of interest is the balance of the list of the charter members, as today many of the same families are represented in the official work of the Association from year to year, almost a half century later: Messrs. Henry M. Silver, C. F. Pierce and son, Kenneth W. Millican, C. C. Bagley, E. L. Gulick, C. F. Thurber, A. W. Clough, C. B. Dodge, E. V. Lucas, E. E. Porter, C. F. Bracey, George H. Kendall, B. J. Staples, F. H. Moore, N. B. Hazen, H. H. Lee, F. T. Pillsbury, M. H. Pillsbury, Thomas Sinclair, and Irving A. Hazen. As is true, however, of organizations that are carried over several months in more or less dormant condition, we find that the original enthusiasm was not to remain endlessly, and toward 1930 the meetings became somewhat of a perfunctory obligation and the life blood seemed to have been largely sapped from its veins. Possibly it was a case of "let George do it" when it came time for committee appointments and a little work was necessary which took from the peaceful hours of vacation rest. As a result, a need of reorganization and restatement of purposes was felt needed and this was done in September 1936 under the guidance of DeWitt Mallary and Lloyd Bugbee, so that since that time the Lake Morey Protective Association has maintained a prosperous and ever-effective function in the life of its members and the community.

Although the annual reports have a very similar ring, whether it be 1910 or 1950, it is felt the programs followed have created a closer feeling of friendship with the village people and have resulted in a better understanding of their mutual problems. It has not been just a case of the annual meeting and dinner to which all are invited. Nor has it been merely a question of garbage collections, winter patrol of the Lake property, or disposition of dead fish. Some of the more important projects undertaken have been periodic stocking of the Lake with fish, a definite program a few years ago to rid the waters of weeds—although their control seems to be as evasive as changing the weather,—a planned campaign with the proper State authorities to clear up any health menaces, on occasions the entry of several floats in the Fairlee Day parade, the launching many years ago of a regatta, close ties with the work of the Federated Church, and such a provocative program as the attempted institution of property zoning on the Lake. In all these programs, and many more, the people of the town and the Lake have worked and pulled together, toward the common goal of betterment and to make Fairlee and Lake Morey a finer place to spend the days of summer enjoyment.

LAKE MOREY IN NOVEMBER

Somber and gray in the bleak autumn day
The dark clouds above me are flying,
While around me are strewn the leaflets of June,
Withering, fading and dying.

No longer I hear the notes, loud and clear,
Of the Whip-poor-will joyfully singing,
Nor, in the evening's hush, the voice of the thrush,
The sweetest of melodies ringing.

The hills once serene in their garments of green
Now barren, forlorn and forsaken,
And the cottages stare in sad, blank, despair
To their lonely desertion awakened.

The wind rustles by with a moan and a sigh
Like a wail for the friends it has cherished,
While the bright summer days have glided away
And along with the flowers have perished.

The murmuring pines, as they downward incline
Seem to utter a lingering moan
And repeat the refrain, again and again,
"Alone we are left all alone."

Thus, forsaken, I lay as day follows day,
Chilled by the cold autumn blast;
For the ice king draws nigh and I shudder that I
Shall soon be bound in his grasp.

But when the cold blasts of winter are past,
When the rain and the ice king is ended;
When the humming of bees and the birds 'mong the trees
With the music of spring time is blended.

When my bondage is done and my freedom is won,
When my fetters the sunbeams shall sever,
When soft zepthers blow and the sweet flowers grow
I will smile just as brightly as ever.

And when once again I greet summer friends,
Not a trace of my sorrow shall linger,
But I'll look so serene they never will dream
Of my suffering bondage in winter.

Written by George W. Sampson Lake Morey Nov 23, 1896 — Opinion

LAKE MOREY'S GHOST

Peaceful lie Lake Morey's waters,
Sheltered by Mount Fairlee steep;
Birches bend to watch their image
Mirrored in the crystal deep.

Long ago the Red men paddled
Their canoe from shore to shore,
Camped upon its sandy beaches,
Learned to love it more and more.

Then the White man, moving northward
Saw its beauty, loved it too,
Built his home and cleared the forest —
'Round it, little hamlets grew.

Captain Morey, thinker, worker,
Planned a boat propelled by steam,
Built it, launched it, found his vision
Had not been an idle dream.

Then, alas! the friend he trusted
Stole away from him the fame
And the Captain sunk his vessel
In the lake which bears his name.

Broken-hearted, the brave Captain
Soon was called to his long rest,
But 'tis rumored that his spirit
Haunts the scenes he loved the best.

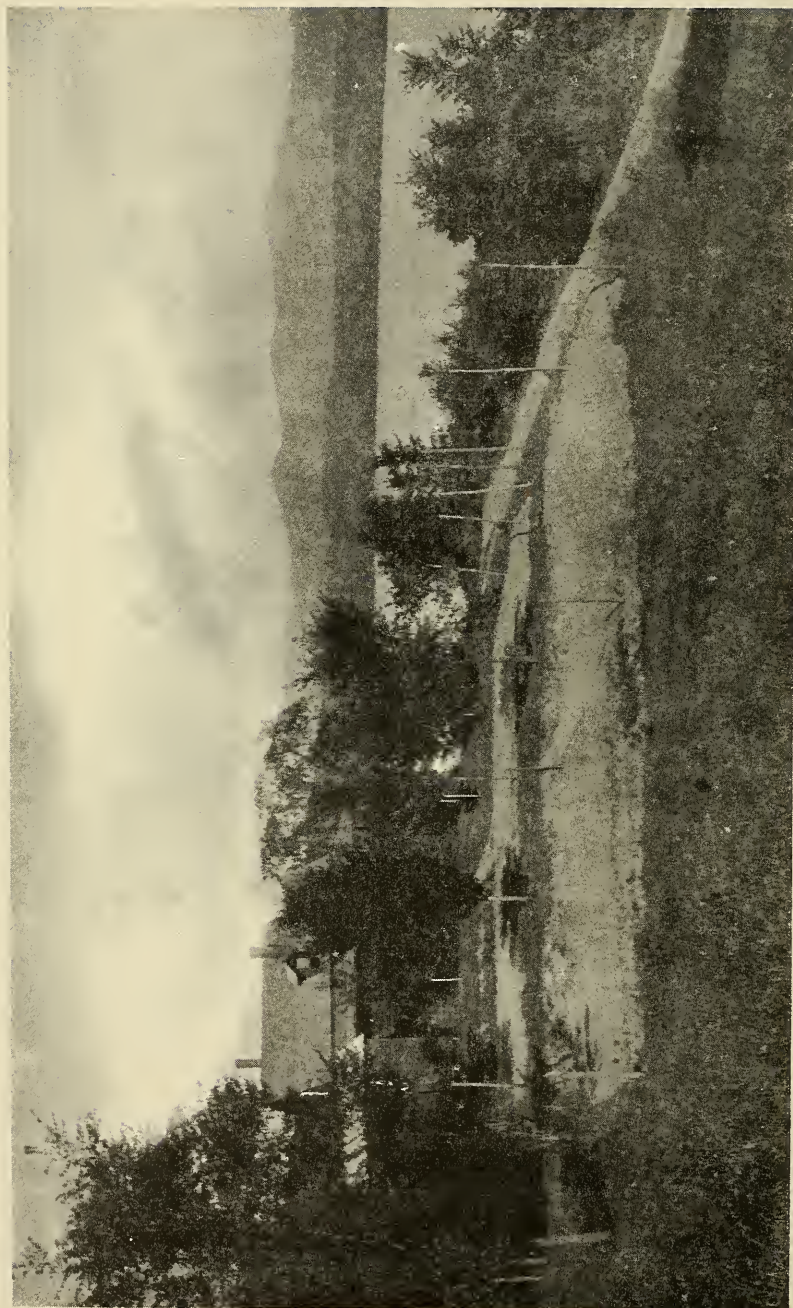
People tell of other people
Who, on still and sultry eves
Felt an icy breath go past them,
With no rustling of the leaves,

And each year when midnight cometh
Of the day he sank his boat
On the waters of Lake Morey
Ghostly craft is 'seen to float.

On her deck the eerie Captain
Guides her swift and silent flight
As she steams about her birthplace,
Without ripple, sinks from sight.

Rumor, as elusive ever
As those misty floating shades,
Has it that the Captain's spirit
And the strange, frail craft that fades
Shall be seen upon these waters
Till upon the roll of Fame
Man shall cross out Robert Fulton
And replace it with his name.

FLORENCE A. KENDALL



CAMP "ALOHA"

FAIRLEE POND

Surrounded by Mountainous Hills;
Fed by crystal waters from
Brooks and Springs
Ever flowing down mossy covered
Glen and rocky Falls to
Fill the shores and feed thy fishes—
Seventy odd years I loved thee well.

Captain Samuel Morey of Steamboat
Fame in 1790 used thee, to float his
Sally Ann.
Propelled by PADDLE WHEELS
She set the pace, for everything in
The Land.
His State, Vermont, Honor due,
Changed Pond to Morey Lake, for you—
How fitting.

Mankind have Danced, Wined, Dined,
Upon thy Beautiful shores.
Golf, Boating, Fishing, Bathing, talks
Echoed from thy Palisades of time;
Summer PIONEERS all passed along
But me, I Halloo CARRY ON—that Echo
Be for Eternity.

Now that things are so changed these
Later days; The Camps, Cottages all
Around, I Blush with pride; to see the
Mighty Progress that hath been thine
As One might say; Over Night—
GOD was good to thee.

F. W. R. BRADFORD

Miscellaneous

THE FOLLOWING few pages, before this story is brought to a close, were originally withheld by the writer because of printing limitations. Although of a miscellaneous nature, they do add to the history or little stories of Fairlee and feeling them to be of some value, it is gratifying they can be included and the reader's indulgence is requested because they do not necessarily follow in their logical context.

CLUBS

As is true of many churches, Fairlee has at various times formed church clubs and "circles" to carry on the social activities and many fund-raising campaigns. Some last for many years, others are permitted to gradually disappear from the scene of activity. Mention of some is worthy. In December 1909 the young girls of the church formed the Rose Circle which was to raise money to furnish a room at the parsonage and also for missionary purposes. The boys had a counterpart in the "Knights of King Arthur." This had been preceded in 1897 by the Paragon Club which was formed with twelve members to raise funds for the new Town Hall. We have already read of the Ladies Union during the 1880s which was to do another fine job in 1920 by raising sufficient to pay the parsonage mortgage. The largest membership was that of the Temperance Union formed with 258 members in 1860 but this was of short duration. Of more lasting life but not a church affiliate, was the Silver Leaf Grange formed in 1898 with twenty charter members, the Men's Club which was first suggested in January 1925, the same year the Community Circle was to be formed. One particularly splendid program these ladies had was the payment of the final note on the church of \$200.00 in January 1936. Mention should also be made of the Nulli Secundus Club of young ladies in May 1921 and the Christian Endeavor Society which was to start in 1925, being reorganized in 1929 and again in 1932. Also quite active today in the social life of the town is the Rondo which was originally founded in 1920 and later became affiliated with the national Federation of Women's Clubs in 1926.

One of the oldest societies, as stated, has been the local chapter

of the Grange. Although the Silver Leaf Grange 254 was formed in 1898 and is still active, it was actually preceded by Valley Grange 202 which was organized in April 1875 with 37 members. They met in various homes and were active about four years. They were then to disband but a tie to the future was to be maintained in that the office of authority the Worthy Master then used was given to Mr. W. C. Ordway when he was to hold that esteemed office in 1903 and it has been used by all successors to the chair. Among the 19 charter members of the Silver Leaf Grange formed on January 6, 1898 were many to be remembered for their deeds of kindness and love in the community, some being Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Woodard, Miss Minnie Closson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brock, Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Perkins, Herbert Warren, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dewey, Barzella Adams, H. A. Melendy, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bythrow, Fred Abbott, Alger Warren, Miss Florence Paine (Mrs. William Leach), and Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Abbott. Until the fire of December 1912 the Grange met under the kerosene lamps in the church rooms; and then was forced to move into private homes and the Orford Masonic Hall until the new church was built in April 1914. Then, as now, their work was dedicated to various civic programs, help of the needy, and the performance of amateur dramatics to assist in raising funds for their work.

LIQUOR QUESTION

At the annual Town Meeting one of the articles of the warning reads "To vote on the following questions: (a) Shall licenses for the sale of malt and vinous beverages be granted in this Town? (b) Shall spirituous liquors be sold in this Town?" The sale or prohibition of liquor has been of vital importance to the people of Fairlee and Vermont for over a century. It has been a question capable of setting up definite factions, a subject much in the concern of the Church, and at times a political football. It can be said to the favor of Fairlee voters that they have let their conscience be their guide and as conditions have changed their thinking has been able to comprehend the necessity of perhaps a change in their approved ways of life. The records early show the force of demon rum in the lives of the less strong willed and that advantage was taken of these poor souls by those hungry for pecuniary gain is evident. As early as 1778 the Governor's Council made it law that each town should license places of public entertainment to control the drunkenness and exorbitant prices that became a serious problem. That the tavern as run by Launcelot Granger in 1807 or later Phineas Bailey was licensed as the one outlet in Fairlee is a matter of record. It was the usual procedure for one of the Selectmen to make the liquor purchases and sell to the tavern for the account of the town. The day books of Israel Morey show many entries for the sale of rum and other spirituous liquors.

That there was a temperance movement is known in 1860, and the Church itself was a strong advocate of prohibition. There is record of a license being applied for in 1848 when the Town Meeting denied the request by a vote of 30 to 29. The sentiment, or maybe political pressure, was to change three years later when one was granted to a Jonathan Austin. About this same time it might be said the forerunner of the state store was to come into use in several towns of the state. A local liquor agent was appointed by the townspeople and it was his responsibility to dispense all liquors, the buyers signing a record book of purchases. This apparently had its loopholes and did not work too satisfactorily as in 1868 we find "On motion of Alexander McLane Esq. and seconded by Hon. A. H. Gilmore it was voted to instruct the Selectmen not to provide any more liquors for the town liquor agency; nor to make agreement with any persons to sell liquors for the town, any further than to sell off such liquors as may be on hand on the first of May next—to the end that the Town will have and keep no Liquor Agency after the liquors now on hand are disposed of." Fairlee then became a dry town for almost sixty-five years.

In 1903 the State invoked the local option law, under which the article of the warning quoted at the beginning of this subject became effective. Fairlee was not prone to change its mind, however, and denied the sale of liquors by the vote of 47 to 22. It is interesting to note that the difference of opinion was to increase more definitely during the next years and from then until after the First War the votes ran 45—6, 55—14, 25—3, and so on. With the change in world affairs and its indirect effects on daily living after the return of the soldiers and the aftermaths of war, the differences were to decrease. Still no approval but the trend was on its way. In 1934 the State took over liquor distribution in its State-owned stores and at a special Town Meeting in May Fairlee voted to have local sales in approved places 30 to 18. Since then the vote has been in the affirmative and today the cycle has been completed, it now being not 47 noes and 22 yeas but 95 yeas and 46 noes in 1954.

To those who know Fairlee people, though, this is not a sign of weakening in their belief of what is for the good of all. Those who vote are just as adamant in their belief as they were a century ago. It is a sign of a change in times, the faster life we live even in small New England towns, a sign of—to some—progress on the road we travel.

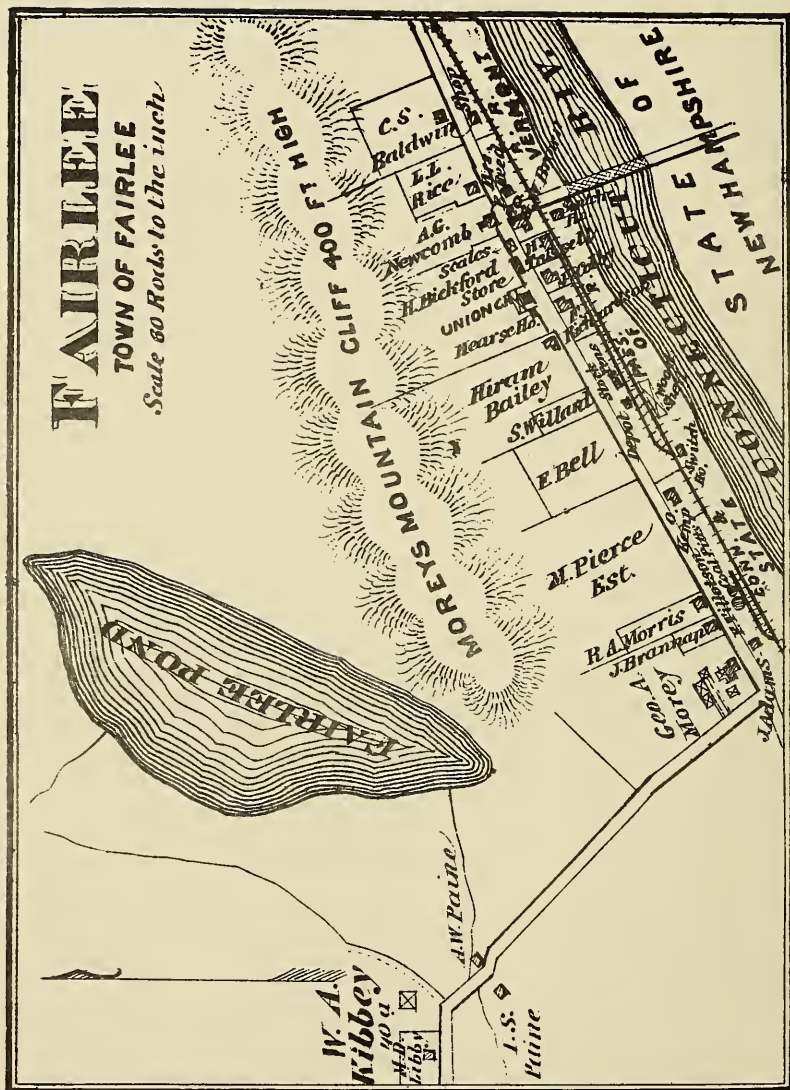
DISASTERS

The location of Fairlee, with its high river bank, has been fortunate in the major disasters of New England caused by wind or rain. We do find a reference in the early history books that in the early part of 1805, approximately, there was a staggering flood which caused considerable damage to the property of the early settlers and it is

written, because of this John Baldwin, who was the first settler and lived at the south end of town, moved his family to parts unknown. Another flood occurred October 4, 1869 which did considerable damage around Bradford, but Fairlee was apparently spared. The "Aurora of the Valley," forerunner of the Bradford "Opinion" mentions in its story of the flood that it was the worst since one of 1828. Then on November 2, 1927 the waters were to raise their muddy heads again over the natural banks and, although the high water marks were to become matters of historic record on the New Hampshire shores, such fate was not to come to the Fairlee side. This sad destructive story was to repeat itself again on March 12, 1936 but fortune again shone on the Vermont town. Such luck could not be expected to hold indefinitely, however, as with the winds and rains of September 22, 1936 Fairlee was to know the fury of such unnatural velocities. Trees were uprooted, roofs dislodged, utilities put out of order. Sections of the lake road were one large jungle of broken limbs and felled trees. It is provident, however, that time and man hours of labor were soon to heal the scars, there was no loss of life, and property damage was not too great. What the winds and rains of the future may hold, no one can say; but to date the toll has been light compared to many towns in nearby areas.

THE GLEBE

It is believed that in all the charters granted by the governor of New Hampshire a certain tract was set aside for the Church of England and was known as "glebe" land. Under the charter of 1761 granted to Fairlee, this land consisted of house lots numbered 100 and 101 on the map, located on the west side of Lake Morey, parts of which are now owned by the Aloha Camp and Mr. Wakefield of "Birchmere" cottage. Although the rents from such lands were to be given to the Church, when we broke our allegiance with England, it is assumed such rights no longer were to exist. It is interesting to note, however, that the agents of the church in this country still maintain an interest and submit rental bills annually of a very small amount. This decision was made by our Supreme Court in 1830, but only after a long legal struggle and the whole history of this court case is the subject matter of several books for those who want more than a brief sketch of it. Such lands were at first considered to be the property of Vermont after independence had been gained. At this same time there was some agitation to start a state college and even the possibility of Dartmouth College locating in Orford was considered. In any event President Wheelock of Dartmouth offered to educate without charge any Vermont students in return for the glebe lands and other tracts which had been set aside under the charters for the Incorporated Society. The state legislature refused this offer in 1786 and the following year authorized the local selectmen to take charge



of the lands for seven years, using the income for town improvements. This proved to be an inefficient way of handling the funds and in 1794 the rents were to be given to the local religious bodies. The Supreme Court ruled this unconstitutional in a case brought by the Episcopal Church as the successor of the Church of England. In 1805 it was voted to use the lands for school purposes and, after a long legal fight, this vote of the legislature was upheld by the United States Circuit Court in 1815 on the grounds Vermont had succeeded to the rights of Great Britain. More legal entanglements followed and in 1830 the final decision was given in favor of the Episcopal Church, in which state the lands have remained to date.

THIS and THAT

The history of a town is not always completely told in its official records, the votes of Town Meetings, the statistics of births and deaths, or the appointment of Mr. So and So for constable or Miss Whatshername as librarian. Ofttimes it is the day to day happenings of only passing notice or the squib in the local paper about a person soon forgotten after his life span has run out. Such is the anecdote that the present home of Ray Godfrey was known as the "spite house" being built by Alex McLane in the same design as one built by Frank Porter for his bride, the fair young lady on whom McLane had had designs and was to lose. Or it may have been just such an advertisement as ran many years ago "Lost—valuable cow this week. Cause, the wind blew too many apples within its reach." Another sign of the way of life was the notice in 1898 "Uncle Ned Rogers we think is about one point ahead for at the post office there is a dish containing seven full blooded Plymouth Rock eggs laid by a pullet aged four months." Vermont winters are notorious but the 1899 one was presumed to be unusual, the forecast being "not within memory of the present generation have so many bears come into the open." The preceding Spring had apparently been dry, however, as special notice was made that the sidewalks should be wider as "it is quite dusty for ladies to ride on main road." Sidewalks seemed to be a matter of some public concern as we find at this same time "The Kendall boys have repaired the sidewalk in front of their house. A good example for others to follow." It was not always mechanical interruptions in the gentle flow of traffic, as in 1808 notice was posted that "horses, swine, or sheep shall not be allowed to run loose on common or highway—fine: 20 cents each horse, 10 cents each swine or sheep." Then the days of real progress were noted by special comment that Franklyn Trussell had installed his own radio in 1923 and was getting "quite distinct connections," having heard a Boston station. Would the day of getting a picture direct from across the ocean in your own living room ever be believed?

It is not always incidents that throw their little light on the

life and times of the past, sometimes it has been a favorite character associated with the day to day events. There was Hy Higgins, for example, known for his ability as a general tinkerer and clock repairman par excellence; and along with his manual agility went his particular superiority in the chewing of tobacco. Or there was the friendly sight of Mrs. Kate Brennan sitting in her window day after day making a new dress or major repairs on an old one for some Fairlee lady less experienced with needle and thread. Then there was Billy Deutchman, sometimes reverently called the "Dutchman" who lived on the bridge corner and had a particular penchant for cutting wood. The children, particularly, had a friend for many years after the First War named "Birdie" Reed. His wagon full of fresh cookies and cakes which he had gotten off the up train in the morning were eagerly awaited by the gaping mouths of the young in town and around the lake.

And so we have the history of this little Vermont town situated under the cliff and its beautiful Lake Morey renowned in song and poetry. It has seen almost two centuries of growth, typical in many ways of its counterparts in the Green Mountain State. Many of its problems have probably seemed unsurmountable but the solution has always been reached with honest thoughtfulness. With such a history behind its people the future is secure and, whether your stay may be long or short, as a child or adult, life will have been a little brighter for having known this settlement of honest and friendly people; called Fairlee.

FAIRLEE CENSUS FIGURES

1790	239	1880	469
1800	386	1890	398
1810	983	1900	438
1820	1143	1910	438
1830	656	1920	459
1840	644	1930	456
1850	575	1940	535
1860	549	1950	571
1870	416		

GRAND LIST FOR THE YEAR 1784

	Polls	Oxen	Cows	Horses	3 year old	2 year old	1 year old	Swine	Land	Pd.-Sh.-Pence
John Joyner									4	2.00
John Simonds	1		1							9.00
Lucy Simonds	1									6.
Ichabod Ormsbee	1	2	3	1				4	50	55.00
Samuel Smith	1	2	3				3	3	28	46.00
Guye Clark	1		1							9.00
Amesa Woodworth	1		2				1		8	17.00
Asa Aspanwal	2		1	2				1	22	33.00
Joel Woodworth									7½	3.15
Israel Morey Jr.	1		2	1				2	16	25.00
John Marston	1		2						4	14.00
Daniel Freeman	1		1					3		10.10
Israel Morey Esq.	1	2	3	1			3		111	81.10
Wm. Marston			3	1	1	1	1		35	35.10
Edward Green	3	2	4	2						44.
Bradbury Green	1									6.
Peter Marston	1									6.
Joshua Wiggins	2		2						4	20.
Samuel Coburn	1	2	1					0		17.
Jacob Marston									10	5.
James Bachelder	1									14.
Solomon Morey	1		1	1					4	14.
George Wilson	1									6.
Wm. Marston Jr.	1	2	2					1	5	23.10
Francis Hough	1									6.
Elijah Blood	1	2	1					2	8	23.
John Post	1	2	3						4	25.
Michael Barstow	1		2	2				1		10.
Stephen May	1	2	1							17.
Ithamer Chapin	1									6.
Eleabin Walker	1		1						3	10.10
Thomas May	1	4	1							25.
Calvin Morse	1	2	2							20.
----- Niles				1						3.
Nathan Avery	1	2	3	1						26.
Nathaniel Niles	2	2	3	2					7	38.10
Randal Niles	1	2								14.
Ezra Bassitt	1		1	1						12.

	Polls	Oxen	Cows	Horses	3 year old	2 year old	1 year old	Swine	Land	Pd.-Sh.-Pence
Oliver Bassit	1									6.
Ephraim Carpenter	1									6.
John Robertson	1									6.
Joseph Daggit	1									6.
Nathan Marvin									6	3.
Ebenezar Baldwin									6	3.
Nathan Fellows	1		1							9.
Alpheas Phillips			1							9.

List of the Town of Fairlee

For the Year 1784

is 769.15 pounds

(Sig) SAMUEL SMITH)

WILLIAM MARSTON)

Listers

Capt. Marston

Stephen May

Sam'l Coburn

Ezra Bassit

Peter Marston

ORIGINAL GRAND LIST — 1812

	Horses	Clocks	Watches	
Bliss Samuel	8	3		\$ 33.50
Bliss Solomon	24	4		167.00
Bliss Samuel Jr.	23	6		168.25
Bliss David	1	2		34.75
Bliss David Jr.		2	1	60.00
Brown Benjamin	2	1		30.00
Brown William	6	4	1	70.00
Baldwin William	15	2	1	74.75
Baldwin John	12	2	1	72.50
Batchelder John	4	2	1	33.50
Bissel Noediah	60		2	156.00
Bissell B. S.	10		2	50.50
Coburn Samuel)				
Coburn Charles)	65	2	3	317.75
Coburn George	6	2	2	79.00
Coburn Lemuel	15	2	1	32.50
Coburn Lemuel Jr.				20.
Churchill Francis	12	3	1	74.00

	Chairs	Polls	Houses	Improved Lands	Oxen	3 year olds	2 year olds	3 years old	Horses 2 years old	Horses 1 year old	Clocks	Watches	
Hewes Samuel				6		3	3	1	2				78.00
Ivers John				30	2	3	1	1	0				109.50
Jenkins Stephen Jr.	1					2							33.00
Jenkins Stephen	1					1							26.50
Jenkins John													
Kinney C. J.	1					1							26.50
Lamb Luther													
Lombard Benjamin						1							
Martin Ira	1					1							26.50
Morey Samuel			1-100	50	10	2		1					200.00
Morey Moulton	1		1-100	20	2	4		1			1		121.50
Morey B. D.	1			24	4	4		2			1		165.00
Moulton Peter	1			4		3	1	1					65.00
Marston John	1			12	2	2							74.00
Marston John Jr.	1												20.00
Marston Peter	1		1-200	36	3	8	9	2	2		1		264.00
Morrison Samuel	1					1							26.50
Morrison James				8		2	4						47.00
May Asa				14									24.50
Marvin Solomon	1		1-100			1							38.50

Thurston Stephen	1	6	2	2	43.50
Whitcomb Francis	1	12	2	3	37.50
Woodward Asa	1	10	3	3	57.00
Woodward Benja	1	4	2	1	72.00
Wigens William Jr.	1	4	2	1	53.50
Wigens ----	1				20.00
Woods Samuel	1		2	1	46.50
Wheeler B G - Admin.	1-300	5			14.75
Woodward Harvey		7	2	2	45.50
Woods John		14			25.50
Augustus Moriss		20	2	3	98.00
Kelley Daniel		6			10.50
Moore John		12			21.00
David C. Churchill	1		1	1	33.50
Woodward ----	1	20	2	3	128.--
Edward Clark	1		1	1	50.00
David Morrison	1		1	1	50.00
Jonah ----					

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